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**CJUS 3340.400**  
**Computer Crime**  
Summer 2026, 5-Week (1)

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**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to computer crime through an examination of the crime(s) and the individuals who commit them, as well as the specific laws, investigative techniques, and criminological theories applicable to computer crime.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- 1) Understand the different types of computer crime.
  - Define computer crime as illegal behavior.
  - Identify and differentiate different types of computer crime.
- 2) Explain participation in computer crime using traditional criminological theories.
  - Identify and describe traditional criminological theories.
  - Apply traditional criminological theories to individual participation in computer crime.
- 3) Explain the unique role of each criminal agency in responding to computer crime.
  - Identify the roles of each criminal justice agency in responding to computer crime.
  - Distinguish the primary activities within each agency.
  - Discuss the primary actors and their roles within each agency.
- 4) Explain the challenges facing law enforcement in responding to computer crime.
  - Identify the challenges facing law enforcement in responding to computer crime.
  - Describe the challenges facing law enforcement in responding to computer crime.
  - Identify and describe specific strategies that may help overcome these challenges.

**REQUIRED READING MATERIALS**

Taylor, R. W., Fritsch, E. J., Liederbach, J., Saylor, M. R., & Tafoya, W. L. (2023). *Cyber Crime and Cyber Terrorism* (5<sup>th</sup>). Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780137953202

## COURSE NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Class Meeting. This is an online class. Course expectations and classroom policies are outlined in the syllabus below. While students are expected to complete written assignments, participate in online discussions, and online quizzes, there are no formal on-campus meetings in this course that would require a student to come to campus.

Scheduling Meetings During Office Hours. If you need to schedule an in-person meeting during, I am available by appointment. The primary method to contact me to schedule a meeting is via email.

Email Expectations. When sending an email, please include in the subject line the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 3340). Only emails sent from your UNT email account will receive a response. Please allow 48 hours of turnaround time (weekdays) for your email inquiries when contacting either me or the TA. Emails sent after 5pm or on the weekends (and/or holidays) will be answered the following business day.

Use of UNT Email Address. Please make sure to have your official UNT email forwarded to your preferred email address (if different) to receive important updates, changes, announcements, class cancellations (if applicable), and generally, so I can reach you if necessary. **Before emailing me with a question, make sure to review the syllabus, schedule and welcome statement. Most questions are answered in these documents.**

Canvas Announcement(s). The announcement board in Canvas, and email, will be used for primary communication with the class as a whole. I advise you check the announcements section frequently.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/ASSISTANCE

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course:

- UNT Technical Support: <https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>
- Canvas Student Guides: [All Product Guides - Instructure Community](#)
- Canvas VPAT: <https://www.canvaslms.com/accessibility>

Minimum Technical Skills. This is not a computer skills course and as such, students are expected to have a minimum skill set in order to access course materials and complete assignments. Specifically, students should know how to access a Web site when given an address, use the features of their Web browser, download files, attach files to emails, use word processing software, copy and paste...etc.

**Important:** It is your responsibility to utilize a computer system that works and is compatible with the UNT online system/Canvas. This is especially critical during examination times. I would recommend that you take your exams on the UNT campus if possible. If that is not possible, I would recommend you avoid waiting until the last minute to take your exam in case problems arise. **Do not complete your assignments on mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets.**

## **COURSE ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

Access and Log-in Information. This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas' Learning Management System, Canvas. To get started with the course, please go to: <https://canvas.unt.edu/>.

You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: <http://ams.unt.edu>.

Student Resources. As a student, you will have access to:

- Student Orientation via Canvas. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials within the Orientation to better equip you in navigating the course.
- It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course. From within Canvas, you will have access to the “UNT Helpdesk” tab which provides student resources and Help Desk Information.

## **COURSE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION**

Students will most of their time on the Modules page in the course. The ‘Start here’ module will be available throughout the course and contains the course syllabus and other important items.

Each week new materials will unlock in line with that noted in the syllabus. Each module will contain objectives, an introduction and to-do list for the week, weekly notes, assignments that are due and next steps. You will be able to complete all activities for each week within the Module.

Updates to the course and important information will be shared on the Announcements page. Finally, students can view their Grades in the course using the Grades tab in Canvas.

### **First Steps**

Upon entrance into the online classroom, students should spend some time navigating course materials and links to ensure they are able to locate all required materials. The student should review the syllabus and course materials early in the semester and keep a copy of the syllabus for easy reference throughout the course.

### **Student Support**

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources.

The student help desk may be reached at:

- Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)
- Phone: 940.565-2324
- In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130
- Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Please refer to the website (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm>) for updated hours.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION**

As this is an online class, students must be prepared to take responsibility for their own learning. Students should be prepared to take quizzes and complete online discussions with little direction beyond that provided in the syllabus and individual assignment instructions. Students will earn points through three methods of evaluation: Online activities, quizzes, and discussion assignments.

**Online Activities.** Students will complete 2 online activities during the semester worth a total of 30 points or 15 points each. Web links for these activities are provided in the assignment instructions for each activity on Canvas. Students will complete the activity as instructed. Students must submit a screenshot of the required components as a document through the Canvas submission link by the due date and time in order to receive credit for the assignment.

**Quizzes.** Students will complete a total of 5 quizzes throughout the semester worth a total of 100 points or 20 points each. Quizzes can be accessed through the Quiz tab in Canvas. Weekly quizzes will be available for 40 minutes and students will have two attempts to complete it. The highest score between the two attempts will be retained. Because two attempts are offered, there will be no resets or late submissions accepted for any reason.

Quizzes are individual assignments and should be completed in private and not in the company of any other student. Quizzes may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer questions, and/or essay. While course materials may be referenced during the quizzes, students should treat these quizzes as they would an in-class exam and prepare accordingly. Quiz grades will be available following completion of the quiz. Questions regarding your quiz score should only be sent to the instructor after the quiz availability period has ended and you have a chance to review the assigned readings to justify an argument for your grade dispute.

**Discussions and Participation.** Online discussions are designed to emulate that of the traditional or face to face classroom environment. Students will complete 5 discussion question posts worth 25 points each for a total of 125 possible points. For each discussion week, students will be required to both respond to the weekly discussion question as well as make two substantive posts to classmates' posts in order to receive full credit for the week. This may include responses to two separate classmates as well as responses to a classmate who responded to your original post. The idea is for this to emulate a real classroom discussion and not just write posts for the sake of writing posts.

Discussion question responses (i.e., your initial post) should range from 250-300 words of original content (references etc. do not count towards the word count requirement). Participation posts (i.e., replies to other students' posts) must reflect critical thought and reflect substantive contribution to the class discussion and should be a minimum of 150 words per response. Rather, simply posting that you agree or disagree with another students post or restating their post will not constitute a substantive response. These posts account for a substantive portion of the overall course grade and will not be treated as completion grades. Students should take their time in responding and crafting a carefully thought-out response. Students will be graded on grammar, so proofread submissions prior to posting.

Responses should be typed in a word document before cutting and pasting them into the text submission box to ensure they have a backup copy in the event of a technical issue. Students are strongly encouraged to complete their work as early as possible during the discussion week to avoid these types of issues.

Discussion posts must incorporate a minimum of 2 scholarly references with appropriate in text citations as well as a complete reference page in APA format for any and all information obtained from academic references. Full credit for participation posts will also include reference to at least 1 academic reference in support of your position. Discussions will close promptly at 11:59pm on the due date listed in the course calendar at the end of the syllabus. Discussion/participation posts cannot be submitted after the discussion forum closes on the designated due date and time.

**\*Note:** Students must respond to the discussion question in order to unlock that week’s discussion and enable the ability to respond to others’ posts. All discussion and participation posts must be completed by the due date and time. No late discussion posts or participation posts will be accepted for any reason. If you have technical difficulties in submitting your post, you must email the instructor a copy of your post prior to the discussion due date to be eligible for partial credit. The instructor retains discretion to accept or evaluate any submission not turned in through the Discussion board in Canvas. Discussion posts/participation posts will be graded and returned within one week of the assignment due date. Discussion questions are designed to assess your comprehension and understanding of course materials, not a description of your personal opinion regarding computer crime.

### **COURSE GRADING**

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on 2 online activities, 5 discussion activities, and 5 quizzes. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 255 points in this course. The due dates for each online activity, quiz, and discussion assignment are listed in the course schedule on canvas.

Possible points can be earned in the following manner:

Online Activities	2 @ 15 points each
Chapter Quizzes	5 @ 20 points each
Discussion Assignments	5 @ 25 points each

### **Grading Scale:**

Final grades will be based on students’ accumulation of points according to the scale below.

230 – 255 =	<b>A</b>
204 – 229 =	<b>B</b>
179 – 203 =	<b>C</b>
153 – 178 =	<b>D</b>
0 – 152 =	<b>F</b>

\*Grades will not be rounded—the total points accumulated at the end of the semester will be used to determine the final grade. In addition, there are no extra credit opportunities for this course.

\*Grade related questions should be discussed with the professor within one week of the grade being posted to Canvas. (Don’t wait until the end of the semester to discuss missing assignments)

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance Policy.** As this is an online course, there are fixed deadlines on assignments that students must meet in order to receive up to full credit for completed assignments. Students are expected to log in to the course daily to review course assignments, due dates, and check announcements, etc. Students may complete their work early and, in doing so, have a large amount of flexibility in completing their assignments. However, while work can be completed early, all assignments must be submitted by the due date listed in the course calendar in the syllabus. Students that have fallen behind, are failing and/or choose to not complete the coursework for the semester are responsible for officially withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of "F."

**Classroom Policies.** Students are expected to log in to Canvas daily to check Announcements or changes to the course. Missing deadlines as a result of not frequently checking Canvas will not be an excuse for late work submission.

No late submissions are accepted for any reason. Assignments are available for at least a week; as such, there are no extensions for last-minute technical difficulties or unexpected events. As this is an online class, students are expected to use their time wisely and complete assignments within the available period. Time management is an important skill both in terms of academic performance and in a professional environment. If a student will be out of town on vacation, work related travel, etc., the student should plan accordingly to complete any assignments prior to their travel. Requesting exceptions to this policy is unfair to other students who complete assignments within the required time period.

Any assignment submitted in a format that the instructor cannot open, for any reason, will receive a score of a 0 regardless of when the assignment was submitted. Follow individual assignment instructors for formatting and submission expectations. Students should be careful to submit assignments as attachments, unless specifically instructed, as this increases the likelihood an assignment will not be visible to the instructor.

Grade related questions or concerns must be addressed within 1 week of the grade being posted to Canvas. Quiz grades post immediately with correct responses available after the quiz close date. Students should email the instructor with quiz questions after they have reviewed the correct responses within one week of the grade being posted. Questions related to the quiz will not be answered while the quiz is still available. Do not wait until the end of the semester or halfway through the semester to ask questions about previous assignments. Students are expected to stay on top of their grades as well as their course standings and ask questions in a timely manner.

Final grades are determined based on the point total listed in the syllabus. There is no rounding. Students should do their best on each assignment and submit all completed assignments on time to maximize their performance and earned point total for the course.

**Online Discussion Expectations.** While this is an online class, we will engage in online discussions in which individuals may have strong opinions regarding course-related topics. Our online classroom is a collaborative environment in which every student should feel comfortable expressing ideas, opinions and engaging in thoughtful discussions. Students will respect the views and opinions of others at all times; name-calling and personal attacks are not permitted. Students engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the classroom will be given one warning through an email from the instructor. A second violation will result in the student being locked out of future discussions eliminating their ability to either participate in future discussions or earn additional discussion points for the course.

**Academic Dishonesty/Integrity.** All students are required to conduct themselves with utmost honesty and integrity in all aspects related to this course. Students should consult the UNT website and [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#) for questions, guidelines, appeals, and other information related to these policies. Any act of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may result in failing the course. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion—the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for course credit ([UNT policy](#)).

Any violation of academic integrity will be handled on a case-by-case basis. At a minimum, the student will receive a zero on the assignment in question, but more serious academic violations may be subject to the assignment of a failing grade for the course. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor with questions related to citations or other academic integrity concerns.

**Generative Artificial Intelligence (*GenAI*).** In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools (e.g., Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini, etc.) is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the [Student Academic Integrity policy](#).

**Grade Appeals.** Please keep all your graded work. You cannot, under any circumstance, dispute a grade on an exam or assignment if you cannot provide the original copy. Should you have any discrepancy with a grade you receive, you must submit a written complaint and meet with me within one week of receiving the grade. Bring the original copy of the exam or assignment to this meeting. Written complaints must address specific comments and/or grading criteria. Filing an appeal does not guarantee that your grade will be changed. **Grades are not verbally negotiable.**

A Grade of “Incomplete” (“I”): An Incomplete Grade (“I”) is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule; and (3) arranges with the professor before the end of the semester to finish the course at a later date by completing specific requirements that the professor must list on the grade sheet. All work in the course must be completed within the specified time (not to exceed one year after taking the course) If you do not meet the specifications for this grade, you will need to see the Registrar’s office about resigning from the University.

**SPOT Participation.** The SPOT evaluation is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the course, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Syllabus Changes.** I reserve the right and have the discretion to change this syllabus. While every effort will be made to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, it is sometimes the case that the syllabus must be modified. In the case that the syllabus needs to be adjusted, I will announce such adjustments to the class. I will make every effort to ensure that any changes to the syllabus benefit the class as a whole. Students are responsible for checking announcements/email so that any and all syllabus changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements does not constitute a defense against missed assignments, test dates, and other applicable changes.

**Office of Disability Accommodation.** The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it's important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

### **Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses**

Federal Regulation. To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G)" and can be found buried within this document ([see here](#)).

The paragraph reads: (G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken online or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance. To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about their need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, they should contact the *UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office* (phone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

## **RESOURCES**

Links to Academic Support Services, such as Office of Disability Accommodation, Counseling and Testing Services, UNT Libraries, Online Tutoring, UNT Writing Lab and Math Tutor Lab are available on the university website.

- *UNT Portal:* <http://my.unt.edu>
- *UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users:* <http://www.library.unt.edu/services/facilities-and-systems/campus-access>
- *UNT Computing and Information Technology Center:* <http://citic.unt.edu/services-solutions/students>
- *UNT Academic Resources for Students:* <http://www.unt.edu/academics.htm>
- *Computer Labs:* General access computer lab information (including locations and hours of operation) can be located at: <http://www.gacl.unt.edu/>

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**See the next page for the course schedule.**

## COURSE SCHEDULE SUMMER 2026

**Note:** Most assignments (online activities, quizzes) will open at 8:00a.m. on the first day (Monday) of each week and close at **11:59p.m. the following Sunday**. Discussion assignments are open for longer periods of time to facilitate thoughtful interactions. Please read this schedule carefully to make sure you are aware of all due dates. Please also note that the final exam week is shorter than others and ends on the Thursday of that week.

### **Week 1: 5/18 – 5/24**

- Topics: Introduction & Overview of Cyber Crime; Cyber Terrorism & Information Warfare
- Readings: Chapters 1 & 2
- Assignments Due:
  - Online Activity #1
  - Discussion Assignment #1: Introduction
  - Quiz #1: Chapters 1 & 2

### **Week 2: 5/25 – 5/31**

- Topics: The Criminology of Computer Crime; Hackers & Sophisticated Cyber Criminal Organizations
- Readings: Chapters 3-5
- Assignments Due:
  - Online Activity #2
  - Discussion Assignment #2: Cyber Criminology
  - Quiz #2: Chapters 4 & 5

### **Week 3: 6/1 – 6/7**

- Topics: White-Collar Crimes; Viruses & Malicious Code; The Silk Road and the Dark Web
- Readings: Chapters 6 & 7; Silk Road Podcast ([Access Here](#))
- Assignments Due:
  - Discussion Assignment #3: The Dark Net and TOR
  - Quiz #3: Chapters 6 & 7

### **Week 4: 6/8 – 6/14**

- Topics: Sex Crimes, Victimization & Obscenity, and Anarchy & Hate on the World Wide Web
- Readings: Chapters 8 & 9
- Assignments Due:
  - Discussion Assignment #4: Cyberstalking
  - Quiz #4: Chapters 8 & 9

### **Week 5: 6/15 – 6/18**

- Topics: Digital Laws & Legislation; Law Enforcement Responses; Investigating Computer-Related Crime
- Readings: Chapters 10-12
- Assignments Due:
  - Discussion Assignment #5: Problems Facing the Criminal Justice System
  - Quiz #5: Chapters 10 & 11