

## Department of Information Technology and Decision Sciences

College of Business  
University of North Texas

Summer 2026

# BCIS 4630 SYLLABUS

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|               |                                            |             |                |          |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| Course Number | BCIS 4630 Section 001                      |             |                |          |
| Course Title  | Fundamentals of IT Security                |             |                |          |
| Course Info   | Credit Hours                               | Days        | Time           | Location |
|               | 3                                          | Tue. & Thu. | 9:00AM-12:50PM | BLB055   |
| Instructor    | Andy Wu, Ph.D., CISA, Security+, MCSE, CNA |             |                |          |
| Office Hours  | Tue. & Thu. 1:45-3:00 PM                   | Office      | BLB 358J       |          |
| Phone         | (940) 565-3735                             |             |                |          |

### TEXTBOOKS

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**Required:** Address, [Foundations of Information Security](#), ISBN: 9781718500044.

**Required:** Wilson, [CompTIA PenTest+ Guide to Penetration Testing](#), Second Edition, Cengage, ISBN: 9798214410111.

**Required:** Nastase, [Computer Networking for Beginners](#), ISBN: 9781731076458.

### OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

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*Supplemental readings:* In addition to the required chapters (see schedule) in the textbooks, I may add supplemental readings (*including PowerPoint slides*) for some class sessions. Please check the course website frequently and acquire the materials (downloading them either directly from the site or from the provided URL) and read them *before* you come to the class. Some contents from the readings will be covered in the exams.

*PowerPoint slides:* They are designed to help you understand the course content during and after my lectures; however, studying solely with the slides is not sufficient.

*Software:* Some open source or trial version software may be required for doing some assignments. Refer to the course Web site for instructions on how to obtain them.

### COURSE PREREQUISITES

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Refer to the UNT *Undergraduate Catalog* or consult with the ITDS undergraduate program advisor for the latest information on the course prerequisites.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This course introduces you to the fundamental concepts and various technical tools of information security. It provides you with an understanding of the current trends in security and essential skills in protecting information assets. You will obtain a basic understanding of the various attacks on and threats to systems, as well as the defense mechanisms to fend them off. You may use this course as the beginning point in preparing yourself to become an IS security professional with business savvy.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

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At the end of this course, you should be able to...

- Describe the most important human, organizational, technological, and ethical issues that are involved in protecting information systems.
- Identify the most common security models, security principles and best practices, regulatory requirements, and governance frameworks used in today's environments.
- Identify system vulnerabilities and various types of common attacks and threats..
- Describe the important phases and activities an attacker on information assets goes through to materialize the attack.
- Describe technologies commonly used to protect information systems.
- Implement basic configuration of and troubleshoot some of the most essential technologies to protect an information system.
- Identify the most popular resources that IS security professionals use to collect and exchange information and to obtain tools to protect information systems.

## ASSESSMENTS

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### ▪ Points system

Each exam, quiz, or lab carries maximum points that you may earn:

| Assessment                         | Max. Points* |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Exam 1                             | 70           |
| Exam 2                             | 80           |
| Exam 3                             | 60           |
| Hands-On In-Class Labs (HOIC)      | 30           |
| Self-Paced Labs                    | 120          |
| Attendance                         | 20           |
| Participation                      | 20           |
| <b>Semester Total Points (STP)</b> | <b>400</b>   |

\* Point allocation  
subject to change.

### ▪ Exams

There will be three exams during the semester. All exams are closed book, closed notes, and consist of multiple-choice questions. Exams 2 and 3 are not comprehensive. However, bear in mind that concepts covered by earlier exams are the foundation for later topics and thus later exam questions, when touching on those foundational concepts, may appear similar to some previous exam questions. Unless otherwise instructed, you will take the exams at the Testing Center (Sage Hall 330) or on laptop computers provided by the Center. It is your responsibility to make arrangements to attend exam sessions. **No make-up exams will be given** unless you have a UNT excused absence (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>) or medical emergency immediately prior to the exam. Before a makeup exam is considered, you must provide the pertinent written documentation (e.g., ER documents, UNT business communications) **within two days** past the original exam date. Documents provided after two days will be deemed backdated or forged, thus invalid. Traffic congestion, urgent situations of family members or your boss at work, etc. are not valid reasons for makeup exams.

▪ **Hands-On In-Class (HOIC) Labs**

Mental engagement and hands-on exercises are important for students' success in this course. During some classes, we will have instructor-led, hands-on lab exercises, in which students follow along and complete the tasks. HOIC lab instructions are brief and may include verbal instructions from the instructor. HOIC materials are designed to illustrate relevant knowledge and skills covered in the lectures and textbooks and the instructor will emphasize those connections extensively during the HOICs. Therefore, although students have some time after the end of the class to clean up/complete HOIC lab worksheets before they are due, doing the HOIC labs outside of the class time independently is strongly discouraged. **Students shall arrange for time and computer availability so that they can carry out the HOICs during designated class time.**

Each HOIC is worth 10 points. Five HOICs will be assigned. The first HOIC is mandatory. Out of the remaining four HOICs, the student may choose which two to turn in. If the student submits more than three HOICs, then the additional HOIC automatically becomes extra credit.

▪ **Homework Labs**

Self-paced labs will be assigned. These labs contain detailed, step-by-step instructions. All self-paced labs are mandatory and must be done **independently**.

▪ **Attendance**

Attendance will be taken four times during the semester. Attendance taking may or may not be announced in advance and may be done at the beginning of, during, or at the end of the class. **If you are not present during the time window when attendance is being taken, you are still considered absent.** Traveling, attending family gatherings, light discomfort (fatigue, dizziness, etc.), and any other occasions not considered "excused absences" per the UNT attendance policy will not be allowed and you will lose attendance credit if you miss a class. If you have an excused absence, notify your instructor with enough advanced notice and provide the required documentation.

▪ **Participation**

Mental engagement is emphasized and your participation is gauged by attendance. To get the 20-point *participation* grade, you must have earned 15 or more out of the 20 *attendance* points. **Participation grade is granted all-or-none. No partial credits.**

## GRADING POLICY

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▪ **Determination of Course Letter Grade**

Letter grades will be assigned as follows where the cutoff is the lowest number of cumulative points that will be assigned that grade. The cutoff points are strictly adhered to. **DON'T ROUND "BORDERLINE" POINTS TO "BUMP YOU UP" TO THE NEXT HIGHER LETTER GRADE!** No "extra work" can make up for your grades at the end of the semester.

| Grade | Cut-Off       |
|-------|---------------|
| A     | 360 (400*90%) |
| B     | 320 (400*80%) |
| C     | 280 (400*70%) |
| D     | 240 (400*60%) |
| F     | Below 240     |

#### ▪ Extra Credit

It is my view that any extra credit you earn should be used to your full advantage in that extra credit points should not increase STP (400 points). Otherwise, the effect of extra credit would be diluted and less straightforward to interpret in percentage terms (as both the numerator and denominator are increased). Unfortunately, the rigid setup of Canvas gradebook inflates the STP and complicates percentage calculation when extra credit points are added. Even worse, the instructor cannot turn off the display of those figures, to the confusion of students.

Therefore, **simply ignore any percentage calculation automatically done by Canvas gradebook**. Just focus on the total points you have earned to date. If you prefer to view your performance in percentage terms, just remember, **the denominator (STP) always stays at 400 points regardless of how many extra credit points I make available**. Add extra credit points to the numerator only; with the denominator held constant, the extra credit increases your percentage to its fullest extent.

#### ▪ Grading Dispute

Any dispute over grades must be made *in writing and within one week* of the day the exam/assignment was returned to you. Your written appeal must include the original, graded assignment, and reasons for disputing the grade. Also, note that I may choose to re-grade the assignment in its entirety, which could result in a raising or *lowering* of the grade. It is far more productive studying before exams than haggling for the points afterwards. However, if you do not understand why an answer is incorrect and want to know how to improve for future exams or assignments, I am happy to discuss them with you.

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### THE “INCOMPLETE” GRADE

The I (Incomplete) grade is reserved for a very limited number of true emergencies. In addition to legitimate reasons with proper documentation, a student **must be passing the course** (making satisfactory progress) when the emergency occurs. For the UNT policy regarding the I grade, see <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/academic-record-incomplete.html>. It is also the student's responsibility to fill out the application form ([http://www.coe.unt.edu/sites/default/files/796/Incomplete\\_grade\\_Form\\_0.doc](http://www.coe.unt.edu/sites/default/files/796/Incomplete_grade_Form_0.doc)) and obtain approval from the instructor and the department chair.

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### ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

Students should start to work on the assignments as soon as they are released on Canvas so that there will be sufficient time for problem resolution should technical or procedure issues occur. Feel free to contact me any time and I will make my best effort to respond to calls for help. However, **if a request for help with an assignment is sent to me on the same day the assignment is due, there is no guarantee that I will be able to respond in time to resolve the issues, although I will still try my best**. In that case, the student will be responsible for an assignment that cannot be completed to his or her satisfaction or expectation. The inability for the instructor to respond in time in such a circumstance should not become the reason for the student to request an extension of due date and/or favorable grading, or not to submit the assignment.

If Canvas experiences difficulties at the time you're submitting your assignment and your submission fails as a result, email your instructor immediately. If you fail to do so, the submission link may not be reopened. **Simply forgetting the submission deadline or submitting wrong files are not valid reasons for resubmission.**

All assignments must be submitted through Canvas. Email submissions to me or the grader usually are not accepted and will not be graded. **If the submission fails due to Canvas or other technical difficulties, document the issue as detailed as you can and contact me immediately.** If late email submission is allowed, it must be submitted to the email address in the submission instructions or it will not be graded.

**HOIC Policy:** Hands-on in-class labs are designed to be done in class, led by the instructor. Since they aren't due until the end of the day following the class, technically one can complete the HOICs outside of the class. If you choose to do so, however, bear in mind that:

- (1) You may be missing certain information. HOICs are the time when the instructor will try to relate hands-on exercises to instructional materials that have been covered previously, aiming to help students understand the materials better. If you are not present in the class, you will miss such information, which will not be repeated for individual students after the class.
- (2) You may run into technical difficulties using the security tools and there is no guaranty that you will receive the instructor's or tutor's technical support for them or the difficulties will be successfully resolved before the HOIC is due. Also note that no late HOIC submissions are accepted.
- (3) Although a HOIC usually contains tried and tested exercises, from time to time, sections of HOICs are retired and replaced with new security tools. In this case, and occasionally even with mature exercises, the lab instructions may contain errors and omissions. The instructor will inform the students in class about adjustments and changes made to lab steps. Such changes may not be reflected in the HOIC instruction PDFs until a future semester and you are responsible for obtaining the change information from those present in class.

Therefore, it is your discretion whether you want to do a HOIC outside of the class. If you do, do so with the knowledge that you are basically on your own.

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#### MAKE-UP POLICY

Exams must be taken in class at the scheduled time. It is your responsibility to make arrangements to attend exam sessions. Religious reasons and verifiable medical or other emergencies brought to my attention *before* the exam are the only exceptions to this policy. See "Assessments" section for more details.

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#### COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

When emailing me about non-confidential matters (e.g., requests for help with homework assignments, inquiries about exam time or question format, advanced notification about not being able to make a class, etc.), please address it to **Dr.Wu.UNT2@Gmail.com**. **Do not use the message or discussion board function of Canvas. All Canvas messages will be ignored.** In your email, put the course number at the beginning of the subject line, followed by a dash, and then a brief description of the subject matter in a few words, e.g., "BCIS 4630 – My Dog Hacked My Computer". Emails sent to my regular RCOB email address could get lost in the various emails I receive daily.

**Asking for help with your assignments.** Feel free to email me directly for help with your assignments. When you do so, please remember to: (1) send email to the correct address (see above); (2) **give a detailed description and attach screenshot(s) of the issues you're having** (and don't take screenshots with your cell phone; use tools like Windows Snip-It instead); and (3) Don't wait until the last minute to seek help. If you contact me within the 24 hours

before the assignment is due, there is no guarantee that you will receive timely help, since I may not be able to adjust my schedule quick enough to go over your code.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT

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- You are expected to attend class regularly. If you must miss a class, it is *your* responsibility to cover any missed material with one of your classmates.
- All work completed outside of class must be typed (word processed) and use proper screen captures or non-hand drawn diagrams.
- The professionalism of your work will count towards your grade. This includes spelling and grammar.
- Submit assignments before the due time.
- Hardware failure or inaccessibility is not a valid excuse for late work. This means that if the computer eats your assignment, or if the labs are full, you will not be excused from handing in an assignment on time.
- Missed exams receive a grade of zero.
- You must inform me, **in advance**, of any special circumstances that might prevent you from completing course requirements on time.

#### PROFESSIONALISM

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The Ryan College of Business is a professional school and one purpose of the college is to educate future managers and corporate leaders on the types of professional behavior that is expected in corporate settings. Therefore, students will be expected to conduct themselves in a highly professional manner at all times. Specifically, students should:

- Be on time for class.
- Read and review the assignments prior to the class.
- Be willing to contribute to class discussions and exercises.
- Be respectful toward faculty, guest speakers, and fellow students.
- Display tolerance toward varying viewpoints and differences in values.

Violations of professionalism and any disruptiveness will be result in the reduction of attendance grade. The professor will determine such violations, but will give you one warning prior to reducing your grade for unprofessional behavior.

#### ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

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Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr).

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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The G. Brint Ryan College of Business takes academic honesty seriously. Ethics and integrity are important business values, essential to building trust and adhering to both professional and legal standards. Academic dishonesty destroys trust, damages the reputation and the value of the degree and is unacceptable. This course adheres to the UNT policy on academic

integrity (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). Academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions from admonition (a warning) to expulsion from the University. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University's status as an institution of higher education. A student is responsible for responding to a request to discuss suspected academic dishonesty when issued by an instructor or other University official. If a student fails to respond after a proper attempt at notification has been made, the University may take appropriate academic actions in the absence of the student's participation.

If plagiarism is detected, both the student(s) who provide the source of the copied work and the student(s) who copied the work will receive zero points for the grading item involved.

#### DISABILITY & ACCOMMODATION

Any student in this class who has a documented visual or physical impairment, hearing disability, or any other disability covered by the university's services for students with disabilities should contact me during the first week of class to discuss and arrange any instructional accommodations that may be necessary. Students who would like to serve as volunteer tutors, readers or note takers for students needing special assistance are encouraged to contact me during the first week of class.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

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| Dates                  | Topics                                                                 | Readings                                                | Assignments                                                | Exams                               |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Week 1<br>(5/19, 5/21) | Foundations<br>Networking                                              | Andress 1, 6, 8,<br>Nastase 2-6,<br>Slides<br>Wilson 12 |                                                            |                                     |
| Week 2<br>(5/26, 5/28) | Cryptography<br>VM Orientation<br>Sniffing                             | Andress 5,<br>Wilson 12<br>Slides, video                | HOIC-1 due on 5/29<br>Lab 1 due on 5/31                    | Exam 1 on 5/28<br>Sage 330, 12:00PM |
| Week 3<br>(6/2, 6/4)   | Attack Process<br>(Recon & Scan,<br>Enum & Vuln Scan,<br>Exploitation) | Wilson 5, 6, 7                                          | HOIC-2 due on 6/3<br>HOIC-3 due on 6/5<br>Lab 2 due on 6/7 |                                     |
| Week 4<br>(6/9, 6/11)  | Malware<br>DDoS<br>Defense                                             | Andress 10, 13<br>Wilson 10, 11<br>Nastase 13           | HOIC-4 due on 6/12<br>Lab 3 due on 6/14                    | Exam 2 on 6/11<br>Sage 330, 11:45AM |
| Week 5<br>(6/16, 6/18) | E-Commerce<br>Security                                                 | Wilson 10                                               | HOIC-5 due on 6/17                                         | Exam 3 on 6/18<br>Sage 330, 10:15AM |

## NOTES ON THE SCHEDULE

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- This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor at any time. Students will be notified via email updated printed syllabus/schedule.