

# PUBP/CS/MGT 6725: Information Security Strategies and Policies Course Syllabus

## Course Information

Fall 2026

Delivery: 100% Web-Based, Asynchronous

MS in Cybersecurity, School of Public Policy, IAC

Canvas for Content Delivery

## Instructor Information

Dr Brenden Kuerbis

Office: Remote

## General Course Information

### *Description*

This course introduces students to the policy and management aspects of cybersecurity. It is based on the idea that cybersecurity policy can be sorted into three “layers” representing different levels of social organization: the organizational level, the national level, and the transnational level. The course is divided into four modules. The first exposes students to basic concepts and definitions regarding policy, governance, and threats. The second deals with cybersecurity policy at the organizational level; the third deals with cybersecurity public policy at the national level; the fourth deals with cyber conflict, policy and diplomacy at the transnational level. This course situates cybersecurity in the overall Internet ecosystem. Student deliverables include small group projects as well as individually completed quizzes, discussions, and a final term paper. This is a required core course for all tracks in the Online MS in Cybersecurity.

### *Pre- and/or Co-Requisites*

Students will be expected to have a basic understanding of computers and data networking and will learn some technical material regarding internet protocols, vulnerabilities, exploits and incident response, but the primary focus of the course is on the public policy, management and international relations aspects of cybersecurity. The course does not require programming skills, although they can be useful in some assignments. Students should be able to blend and integrate economic, technical and political modes of analysis. This course is best taken in conjunction with CS 6035 (Introduction to Information Security) for an introduction to the more technical aspects of cybersecurity.

### *Course Goals and Learning Outcomes*

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Recognize the different governance structures used to promote cybersecurity
2. Identify key cybersecurity policy frameworks and standards (e.g., NIST framework)
3. Write a cybersecurity policy for an organization
4. Analyze and assess the effects of existing and proposed cybersecurity laws and regulations
5. Propose actions or strategies that respond to the geopolitical dimension of cyber conflict
6. Recognize the intersections of cybersecurity governance with the governance, standards and operations of the Internet

*Course Materials*

Due to the dynamic nature of our subject matter, no single book exists that meets all course requirements. Each topical area has one or two required readings, which are listed in the course schedule under the

“Readings” column. All required readings are available as pdfs or via the Georgia Tech library. Doing the readings is very important and forms a significant portion of your grade. Quizzes assess your comprehension of the readings. Additional recommended or supplemental materials may be posted in the Canvas site in response to relevant ongoing events in cybersecurity.

### ***Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools***

This class will use Canvas to deliver course materials to online students. ALL course materials and activities will take place on this platform, with supplemental discussion on Piazza. In order to login to Canvas...

### ***Assignment Distribution and Grading Scale***

Here is a list of the assignments and activities required in the course. Grading is not “curved;” students will be graded based on how well they have met the requirements of the assignment and accomplished specific learning objectives. With the exception of quizzes, most assignments will have a rubric associated with them so that students can see what criteria are used for grading and what weight is given to them.

Assignment			Weight
Go Phish (group assignment) Assignment #1			15%
Organizational policy (group assignment) Assignment #2			25%
Legislative challenge (individual) Assignment #3			20%
Term paper (individual) Assignment #4			25%
Quizzes on lectures and readings (4 total)			15%

### ***Assignment Submission and Due Dates***

All assignments will be due at the times listed in Canvas. These times are specified in EST and are subject to minor changes so please check Canvas. To convert from EST to your local time zone, use a [Time Zone Converter](#). Each assignment will have a separate entry in Canvas that explains in more detail what is expected and what criteria are used to grade it. For group assignments, it is highly recommended to allow time to review your complete work together. The weighting of the different assignments in determining your final grade is clear from the table above. Most assignments will be finalized by the student uploading a file in the relevant assignment place in Canvas. Do not send assignments directly to the professors or TA's via email. All assignments must be submitted within Canvas, otherwise they cannot be graded properly and do not count towards the grade. If there are technical issues, please notify the help desk, as well as each professor immediately. Assignments should be graded with feedback within one week of when students turn it in.

### ***Quizzes***

Quizzes become available for a week before they are due and also have a due date, but your answers are recorded and graded as you enter them. They remain available for three days past the due date –

after that they become unavailable. If you fail to take a quiz before it disappears you lose the points. Quizzes are individual assignments – they are intended to provide an incentive to study the readings and strengthen your recall and understanding of the reading and lecture material. We strongly discourage students from helping other individuals to answer the quiz questions.

### ***Late assignments, Missed Quizzes, Re-scheduling***

Assignments and quizzes are due before midnight on the due date. There is a very simple policy governing late submissions: for every day it is late, you lose two percentage points off what your score would have been. This policy will be applied regardless of the reason for your lateness; it doesn't matter whether you just forgot, your day job intervened, you had family problems, etc. The only special circumstances that will be accommodated are those that literally incapacitate the student for a significant period of time, such as injury and hospitalization, floods, hurricanes, power outages for several days, etc. Please do not waste the instructors' time asking for extensions for any other reasons.

### ***Peer evaluations***

During the semester students will fill out a peer evaluation(s) to assess how each group member contributed to the group projects and how the group functioned. This allows group members to praise their peers for their contribution, to identify "free riders" who did not contribute, or to identify and explain problems with group coordination or behavior that affected the quality or timeliness of the project. Peer evaluation can impact a student's final grade.

### ***Grading Scale***

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

## **Technology Requirements and Skills**

To participate in this class, you need the following computer hardware and software:

- Broadband Internet connection
- Laptop or desktop computer with a **minimum** of a 2 GHz processor and 2 GB of RAM
- Windows for PC computers or Mac iOS for Apple computers.
- Complete Microsoft Office Suite or comparable applications and ability to use Adobe PDF software (install, download, open and convert)
- Mozilla Firefox, Chrome and/or Safari browsers

### ***Technology Help Guidelines***

**30-Minute Rule:** When you encounter struggles with technology, give yourself 30 minutes to 'figure it out.' If you cannot, then post a message to the discussion board; your peers may have suggestions to assist you. You are also directed to contact the Helpdesk 24/7.

When posting or sending email requesting help with technology issues, whether to the Helpdesk, message board, or the professor use the following guidelines:

- Include a descriptive title for the subject field that includes 1) the name of course 2) the issue.
- List the steps or describe the circumstance that preceded the technical issue or error. Include the exact wording of the error message.
- When possible, include a screenshot(s) demonstrating the technical issue or error message.

- Also include what you have done to try to remedy the issue (rebooting, trying a different browser, etc.).

### **Communication Policy**

Email personal concerns, including grading questions, to the professor/TA privately using the Canvas platform's messaging. Do NOT submit posts of a personal nature to the discussion board.

Email will be checked at least twice per day Monday through Friday. On Saturday, email is checked once per day. During the week, I will respond to all emails within 24 hours; on weekends and holidays, allow up to 48 hours. If there are special circumstances that will delay my response, I will make an announcement to the class.

Student Forum/Q&A discussion boards will be checked twice per day Monday through Friday; Saturday, these discussion boards will be checked once per day.

Virtual office hours will be held using the Bluejeans. I will hold Virtual Office Hours weekly, and the TAs will arrange special office hours if needed for dedicated topics, such as a large, upcoming assignment. Special topic hours will be announced in advance.

### **Online Student Conduct and Netiquette**

Communicating appropriately in the online classroom can be challenging. In order to minimize this challenge, it is important to remember several points of "internet etiquette" that will smooth communication for both students and instructors:

Read first. Write later. Read the ENTIRE set of posts/comments on a discussion board before posting your reply, in order to prevent repeating commentary or asking questions that have already been answered.

Avoid language that may come across as strong or offensive. Language can be easily misinterpreted in written electronic communication. Review email and discussion board posts *before* submitting. Humor and sarcasm may be easily misinterpreted by your reader(s). Try to be as matter-of-fact and professional as possible.

Follow the language rules of the Internet. Do not write using all capital letters, because it will appear as shouting. Also, the use of emoticons can be helpful when used to convey nonverbal feelings.

Consider the privacy of others. Ask permission prior to giving out a classmate's email address or other personally identifiable information.

Keep attachments small. Avoid gigantic files; if it is necessary to send pictures, minimize the size.

No inappropriate material. Do not forward virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, porn, etc. to classmates or instructors. The instructor reserves the right to remove posts that are not collegial in nature and/or do not meet the Online Student Conduct and Etiquette guidelines listed above.

### **University Use of Email**

A university-assigned student e-mail account is the official university means of communication with all students at Georgia Institute of Technology. Students are responsible for all information sent to them via their university-assigned e-mail account. If a student chooses to forward information in their university e-mail account, he or she is responsible for all information, including attachments, sent to any other e-mail account. To stay current with university information, students are expected to check their official university e-mail account and other electronic communications on a frequent and consistent basis. Recognizing that some communications may be time-critical, the university recommends that electronic communications be checked minimally twice a week.

### **Plagiarism & Academic Integrity**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. All students enrolled at Georgia Tech, and all its campuses, are to perform their academic work according to standards set by faculty members, departments, schools and colleges of the university; and cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

For written papers and assignments the course uses Turnitin to identify and quantify material copied from other sources. Students should review their Turnitin scores prior to assignment submission. An unacceptably high amount of copying or failure to provide citations to others' work will result in penalties to the score and a request to re-do the paper; in the worst cases the project will simply be rejected as a failure. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

### **Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement**

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and students. See the GT [catalogue](#) for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.





