

Course Syllabus

Spring 2026, CS 6265-001/OCY

Information Security Lab: Reverse Engineering and Exploitation Labs

Professor: Dr. Taesoo Kim

Course Description

This course covers advanced techniques for writing exploits and patching vulnerabilities, taught through an intense, hands-on security laboratory. A significant part of this course involves solving [Capture-The-Flag \(CTF\)](#) and discussing strategies for solving such problems. This course covers a variety of topics including (but not limited to) reverse engineering, exploitation, binary analysis, and web.

Prerequisite

- Operating systems or equivalent (e.g., CS 3210 at GT).

Class Meetings

- Online course
- Online recitation (EST time) (TBD)

Course Goals

- Learn classes of security vulnerabilities
- Learn how to exploit security vulnerabilities
- Learn how to defend or mitigate security vulnerabilities

Grading Policy

- 100% Lab.
- If you didn't turn in **a single (full) lab**, you will get an **F**.
 - In other words, you have to submit **AT LEAST one flag** per lab. Solving the tutorial counts, so if you solve all tutorials in all labs, you will not get an F.
- **No midterm or final exams.**
- Expected distribution: 40%: A, 30-40%: B, 30-20%: C and below (in each group).
 - A: **Five** or more challenges per lab, **AND** all the tutorials
 - B: **Four** challenges per lab, **AND** all the tutorials
 - C: Up to **three** challenges per lab, **AND** all the tutorials

- Three groups: undergraduate, masters and PhD students
- We provide a week of a grace period (50% points after due date)
- See [Game Rules](#).

Class website

- Visit <https://tc.gts3.org/cs6265/2026-spring/> to find tutorials and reference materials.

Homework and Quizzes Due Dates

- All labs will be due at the times in the table at the end of this syllabus.
- These times are subject to change so please check back often.

Timing Policy

- The Modules follow a logical sequence
- Assignments should be completed by their due dates.
- You will have access to the course content for the scheduled duration of the course.

Plagiarism Policy

- Plagiarism is considered a serious offense. You are not allowed to copy and paste or submit materials created or published by others, as if you created the materials. All materials submitted and posted must be your own.
- We strictly follow the cheating policy (read GT's [Academic Misconduct Policy](#)).
- **Do not publish or post your work online (e.g., GitHub). Any violation of these rules would result in F in your grade.**

Student Honor Code

- All degree students should abide by the Georgia Tech Student Honor Code
- Review the Georgia Tech Student Honor Code: www.honor.gatech.edu.
- Any OMS Analytics degree student suspected of behavior in violation of the Georgia Tech Honor Code will be referred to Georgia Tech's Office of Student Integrity.

Communication

- Please contact your instructor, teaching assistants, and fellow learners via the Ed Discussion forums.
- Often, discussions with fellow learners are the sources of key pieces of learning.
- Online discussion is strongly encouraged, and it will help you a lot in solving lab problems. Please join Ed Discussion and post your questions, ideas and thoughts.

Netiquette

- Netiquette refers to etiquette that is used when communicating on the Internet. Review the Core Rules of Netiquette. When you are communicating via email, discussion forums or synchronously (real-time), please use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar consistent with the academic environment and scholarship¹.

¹ Conner, P. (2006-2014). Ground Rules for Online Discussions, Retrieved 4/21/2014 from <http://teaching.colostate.edu/tips/tip.cfm?tipid=128>

Course Topics and Release Dates

- The table below contains a course topic outline and assignment due dates.

Weeks		Course Topics	Release Dates (Eastern Time)
Week 1	Introduction Lesson 1	Introduction Tools and x86	Jan 16, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
	Lab 1	Bomb Lab1	Jan 16 at 8:00 a.m. - Jan 22, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 2	Lesson 2	Shellcode and x86_64	Jan 23, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
	Lab 2	Bomb Lab2 / Shellcode	Jan 23 at 8:00 a.m. - Jan 29, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 3 & 4	Lesson 3	Stack Overflow	Jan 30, 2026 at 8: 00 a.m.
	Lab 3	Stack Overflow	Jan 30 at 8:00 a.m. - Feb 12, 2026 at 11: 59 p.m.
Week 5	Lesson 4	Bypassing Stack Protections	Feb 13, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
	Lab 4	Bypassing Stack Protections	Feb 13 at 8:00 a.m. - Feb 19, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 6	Lesson 5	Bypassing DEP and ASLR	Feb 20, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
	Lab 5	Bypassing DEP/ASLR	Feb 20 at 8:00 a.m. - Feb 26, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 7 & 8	Lesson 6	Return-oriented Programming	Feb 27, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

	Lab 6	Return-oriented Programming	Feb 27 at 8:00 a.m. - Mar 12, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 9 & 10 & 11	Lesson 7	Remote Exploitation	Mar 13, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
	Lab 7	Remote Attacks	Mar 13 at 8:00 a.m. - Apr 2, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
Spring break			Mar 23 – Mar 27, 2026
Week 12	Lesson 8	Miscellaneous Topics	Apr 3, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
	Lab 8	Miscellaneous Topics	Apr 3 at 8:00 a.m. - Apr 9, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 13 & 14	Lesson 9	Heap Exploitation	Apr 10, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
	Lab 9	Exploiting Heap Bugs	Apr 10 at 8:00 a.m. - Apr 23, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 15	Lesson 10	Automatic Bug Finding	Apr 24, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
	Lab 10	Online CTF	Apr 24 at 3:00 p.m. - Apr 25, 2026 at 2:59 p.m.
Final exam week	NO FINAL	NO FINAL	Apr 30 – May 7, 2026

Course Materials

- All content and course materials can be accessed online
- There is no required textbook for this course
- Optional materials:
 - Books & Manuals
 - [Phrack Magazine](#)
 - [The Shellcoder's Handbook: Discovering and Exploiting Security Holes](#)
 - [The Web Application Hacker's Handbook: Finding and Exploiting Security Flaws](#)
 - [Intel Architecture Software Developer Manuals](#)

Staff/TA

- TBD

- Feel free to send us an email for support (6265-staff@cc.gatech.edu)

Technology/Software Requirements

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Adobe Acrobat PDF reader (free download; see <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>)