

Georgia Institute of Technology

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

Spring 2026 Section OCY, 001	MS in Cybersecurity, School of Public Policy, IAC
Delivery: 100% Web-Based, Asynchronous	Canvas for Content Delivery
Dates: 12 January – 7 May 2026	

Instructor Information

Dr. Andreas Kuehn	Office: Remote
Weekly Office Hours Zoom	See Canvas for scheduled times

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. Students are expected to be familiar with academic research and writing practices, including the proper use of academic citations. 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 on Canvas or Ed Discussion in response to relevant ongoing events in cybersecurity. Please use Ed

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Discussion for any substantive or administrative questions. In addition, a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page features answers to common questions. Please familiarize yourself with this valuable resource which is updated on a regular basis.

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 occurring on Ed Discussion. If you are new to Canvas, you can find Georgia Tech's [Canvas Resources for Students](#) here.

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. Except for 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. TAs may ask students who submitted excellent assignments for their permission to share their submission with the course/class.

Assignment	Release Date	Due Date	Weight
Go Phish (group assignment) Assignment #1	January 21	February 14	15%
Organizational Policy (group assignment) Assignment #2	February 15	March 7	25%
Term Paper (individual assignment) Assignment #3	March 8	April 4	25%
Policy Challenge (individual assignment in form of a small group discussion) Assignment #4	April 5	April 12 (A4a) & April 22 (A4b)	20%
Quizzes on lectures and readings (4 total)	1 week before due date	End of each Module	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 Canvas' assignment module. If not specified otherwise, use the Word file extension *.docx or *.doc. Some assignments use Turnitin to ensure academic integrity, proper citation and check spelling/grammar. Do pay close attention to the Turnitin report prior to your final submission of the assignment and make changes if warranted (see section on policy regarding plagiarism in this syllabus). Do not send assignments directly to the instruction team via email. All assignments must be submitted within Canvas, otherwise, they will be considered as not submitted. If there are technical issues, please notify the help desk, as well as the TAs immediately.

TAs will grade and provide feedback within one to two weeks after the assignment's due date. Questions about TA comments and/or regrade requests via a private Ed Discussion post (please select category “regrade requests”) are due within seven days (excluding weekends and official holidays) after the release of the graded assignment. Please be specific in your request. Late requests may not be

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considered. Regrade requests will lead to a review of the entire assignment and may result in a higher, the same or a lower grade.

Quizzes

Quizzes become available a week prior to the end of the module. Quizzes are open-book/open-notes and do not have a time limit. Answers to questions can be changed until the entire quiz is submitted at the end. Quizzes 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 all assignments and quizzes, a penalty of two percentage points off your score is applied for every day it is late, until the assignment become unavailable, which is usually 3 days after the submission deadline. At that point 0 points will be received. 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, moved for private or professional reasons, 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. This only applies to assignments, not quizzes or any other course deadlines; such a request for extension must be brought to the professor as early as possible but before the release of the respective graded assignment. If special circumstances apply, a student must contact the Office of Student Life (OSL), submit a request (Class Absence Verification Form: <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance>) in a timely manner and provide evidence. OSL will then provide a recommendation to the instructor for a possible course of action. Please note that for group assignments, options to accommodate extensions, etc. are very narrow due to the nature of the assignment. The professor may grant a temporary extension for an assignment. However, it is the student's responsibility to timely submit a request and forward any responses to the professor. If the professor is not notified by the Office of Student Life by the end of the semester, the temporary extension may be reverted to the original assignment submission date and grades adjusted accordingly.

Peer evaluations

During the semester students will fill out two peer evaluations to assess how each group member contributed to the group projects in assignments 1 and 2 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. Submitting both peer evaluations is required. A peer evaluation that indicates insufficient contribution may lower a student's final grade. Please note that late and non-submissions will lead to a deduction in the respective assignment.

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%

Once the final grade is posted on or before the registrar's deadline and the semester is finished, grades cannot be changed.

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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
- Working webcam (to complete the onboarding module/quiz which is required to access the course; there is no workaround for this)
- Windows for PC computers or MacOS for Apple computers.
- Complete Microsoft Office Suite or comparable applications and ability to use Adobe PDF software (install, download, open and convert)
- Edge, 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 Ed Discussion board; your peers may have suggestions to assist you. You are also directed to contact the Helpdesk 24/7.

When posting or sending an 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 the 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

For course-related communication to the professor/TAs, including grading questions, please create a private Ed Discussion post. All other posts on Ed Discussion should be public so that all students can benefit from the questions and answers. TAs may change a private into a public post, if a post benefits the entire class. Please note that "anonymous posts" are only anonymous to other students, not the instruction team. For concerns of personal nature, please send an email to the instructor.

Posts/messages will be checked at least twice per day Monday through Friday. On Saturday, posts/messages will be checked once per day. The instruction team will respond to posts/messages within 24 hours; on weekends and holidays, allow up to 48 hours.

Virtual office hours will be held using Zoom. We hold virtual office hours twice per week for half an hour. Students are encouraged to join office hours. Office hours are not held during instructional days, reading period, final exam week and designated School as well as U.S. federal holidays. If you are not able to join, you can watch the recordings, which are available in Canvas' Media Gallery. Special topic office hours will be announced in advance.

Online Student Conduct and Netiquette

Communicating appropriately in the online classroom can be challenging. To minimize this challenge, please keep communications with your fellow students and the instructions team professional and courteous. 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, 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.

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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/>.

Georgia Tech's Library provides rich resources to make your research and writing a success. Consult the Library's Public Policy Research Guide (<https://libguides.library.gatech.edu/public-policy>), take a class at the library (<https://www.library.gatech.edu/research-help-support/library-classes>), and/or use the library's help & support (<https://library.gatech.edu/research-help-support>).

For written papers and assignments, the course uses Turnitin to identify and quantify material copied from other sources. Students should review their Turnitin scores, and, if necessary, make revisions prior to submitting the assignment. Unacceptably copying, missing quotation marks and/or failure to provide citations to others' work – as indicated by a high Turnitin score – will result in penalties to the grade. In such cases, the instruction team may request to re-do the paper and/or reject the assignment as failed in serious cases, resulting in 0 points. In addition, a 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 the instructor as soon as possible 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 [catalog](#) for an articulation of some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end,

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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.

Subject to Change Statement

The syllabus and course schedule may be subject to change. Changes will be communicated via Canvas announcements. It is the responsibility of students to stay current.

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Course Schedule

Module 1: The Basics (opens January 12)			
Week/Dates	Topic	Deliverables	Readings
January 12 – February 14	Topic 1: Cyberspace and the societal “layers” Lessons 1-2	Engage with Discussion Question 1: “Cyberspace??” Go Phish Assignment 1 begins (January 21)	Institutional Landscape of Cybersecurity, by B. Kuerbis and Badii, F. (2017)
	Topic 2: Cybersecurity governance, Lessons 1-4		Economics of Cybersecurity, by H. Asghari, van Eeten, M. and Bauer, J. (2016) Measuring and Incentivizing the Adoption of Cybersecurity Best Practices , by NSTC (2024)
	Topic 3: Concepts and Vocabulary, Lessons 1-4	Assignment 1 due (February 14) Quiz 1 on Readings and Lessons due	The Diamond Model of Intrusion Analysis, by S. Caltagirone et al (2016)
Module 2: Cybersecurity in the Organization			
Week/Dates	Topic	Deliverables	Readings
February 15 – March 7	Topic 4: Understanding the risks, Lessons 1-4	Organizational Policy Assignment 2 begins (February 15)	Empirically Evaluating the Effect of Cybersecurity Precautions on Incidents in Israeli Enterprises by Gandai et al. (2022) Information Risk Insights Study by Cyentia Institute (2025)
	Topic 5: Organizational security policies, Lessons 1-4	Engage with Discussion Question 2: “Is Information Operations (IO) part of cybersecurity?”	Combating Ransomware , by Ransomware Task Force (2021) Public Private Partnerships to Combat Ransomware: An inquiry into three case studies and best practices , by Ransomware Task Force (2024), pp. 10-34
	Topic 5: Organizational security policies, Lessons 5-7		NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0 , Optional: appendices A, B, and C. Updating the NIST Cybersecurity Framework – Journey To CSF 2.0 Optional: CSF 2.0 Update Fact Sheet by NIST Optional: NIST Cybersecurity Framework v2.0: What’s changing? [video]
	Topic 6: Industry self-regulatory efforts, Lessons 1-6	Assignment 2 due (March 7) Quiz 2 on Readings and Lessons due	A holistic analysis of web-based public key infrastructure failures: comparing experts’ perceptions and real-world incidents, by H. Hadan, N. Serrano and J. Camp (2021)

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Module 3: Cybersecurity policy at the national level			
Week/Dates	Topic	Deliverables	Readings
March 8 – April 4	Topic 7: US laws and policies, Lessons 1-6	Term Paper Assignment 3 begins (March 8)	Survey of US Laws Read and research proposed policy/rules
	Topic 8: Protecting government networks, Lessons 1-2		Regulation in Cyberspace, Chapter 2, "Literature Review.", by Siboni and Sivan-Sevilla, Israeli Institute for National Security Studies (2019) Cyber Posture Trends in China, Russia, the United States and the European Union by L. Saalman, F. Su and L. Saveleva Dovgal U.S. National Cybersecurity Strategy (2023) Where the New National Cybersecurity Strategy Differs from Past Practice by H. Lin (2023)
	Topic 9: Critical infrastructure, Lessons 1-3	Assignment 3 Individual Term Paper due (April 4) Quiz 3 on Readings and Lessons due	Regulating risks within complex sociotechnical systems: Evidence from critical infrastructure cybersecurity standards, by A. Clark-Ginsberg and Slayton, R. (2019)
Module 4: Cybersecurity and International Relations			
Week/Dates	Topic	Deliverables	Readings
April 5 – April 22	Topic 10: Cyberspace and inter-state conflict, Lessons 1-5	Assignment 4 Policy Challenge begins (April 5) Engage with Discussion question 3: "Defend Forward?"	Chapter 1: Defend Forward and Persistent Engagement , by G. Corn and E. Goldman (2022) United States Cyber Force: A Defense Imperative , by E. Loneragan and M. Montgomery (2024). Comments by E. Noor at Defending Forward: U.S. Cyber Strategy and Its Implications for Cybersecurity in Asia (2021) (video) Facts and Findings: Outward Defense , by S. Soesanto (2021) Russian Cyber Operations in the Invasion of Ukraine , by H. Lin (2022) Hunting Russian Intelligence "Snake" Malware by CISA (2023) Whodunit in Cyberspace: The Rocky Road from Attribution to Accountability , by Kuehn et al. (2023) United States International Cyberspace & Digital Policy Strategy (2024)
	Topic 11: International Norms and Treaties, Lessons 1-3	Assignment 4a post initial statement due (April 12) Assignment 4b debate the proposed policy/rules	Cyberspace and Geopolitics: Assessing Global Cybersecurity Norm Processes at a Crossroads by Ruhl et al. (2020) The United Nations' cyberstability processes: surprising progress but much left to do, by C. Painter (2021) Letter from Mykhailo Fedorov to Göran Marby (28 Feb 2022)

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		Engage with Discussion question: 4 "Cyber-offense or cyber-defense?"	Letter from Göran Marby to Mykhailo Fedorov (2 Mar 2022) Is true multi-stakeholderism failing? FIRST fears so by FIRST (21 Jul 2022)
	Topic 12: Global Internet Governance, Lessons 1-5	Assignment 4b discussion board closes (April 22) Quiz 4 on Readings and Lessons due (April 22)	Sovereignty in Cyberspace: Governance for a non-territorial domain, by M. Mueller (2019) Internet Impact Brief: Mandated Browser Root Certificates in the European Union's eIDAS Regulation on the Internet (2021) The EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework: Background, Implementation, and Next Steps (2022) The new Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework [video] (2022)