



Course ID and Title: LAW 401 Cybersecurity & Cybercrime

Units: 4

2023—Monday & Wednesday—10:00 AM - 11:50 AM

Location: VHE 210

Instructor: Professor Daniel Ahn and Harold Chun

Office: LAW 411

Office Hours: 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM on Monday & Wednesday (30 min prior to class)

Contact Info:

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Course Description

Cybersecurity & Cybercrime is an undergraduate law course that studies the growing sophistication cyberattacks against individuals, companies, cities, and even entire countries, and the emerging policies addressing cybercrime. Through analyzing existing laws and case studies, and creating hypotheticals in class, students will emerge from the course understanding the difficulty of regulating computer crime(s) on the internet and how these crimes affect society and corporations.

Topics throughout the semester include US cybercrime criminal laws, Constitutional and complex legal issues arising from cyber investigations and how cybercrime investigations are conducted and prosecuted. The course will also discuss criminal and national security related issues affecting global corporations, such as nation-state attackers, financially motivated hackers, child safety issues, terrorism and mis/dis-information campaigns. Furthermore, the semester will cover cybersecurity matters affecting global corporations today, such as new compliance requirements and incident response. The course will ask students to consider these issues from the perspective of law enforcement, attorneys and corporate executives managing these complex issues. After taking this course, students will understand how cybercrime impacts different organizations, society and various fields of study; from the value of employee training measures to combat phishing in large companies, to working in law enforcement. Ultimately, students will strive to understand justice and ethics in the context of the Internet, cybercrime and cybersecurity.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the legal framework in which cybercriminals are investigated and prosecuted in the United States.

- Examine what activities the U.S. Justice Department and other law enforcement entities consider cybercrime, and how those authorities punish perpetrators of those crimes.
- Explore investigative techniques and digital forensic tools used to investigate cybercrime, and debate the efficacy of such measures in combatting and preventing further cybercrime.
- Examine how content on the Internet may violate laws and corporate policies, such as content related to children, terrorism and mis/dis-information.
- Examine the issues affecting corporate executives of global companies, and the cybersecurity decisions they need to comply with international laws and protect their companies from online adversaries.
- Present coherent legal arguments to their peers and engage in debate over information privacy issues, and sentencing for cybercrime offenses.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-Requisite(s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: None

Course Notes

- Course may be taken as Pass / Fail or for a Letter Grade
- Course will include numerous guest speakers, both in-person and via video-conference.
- Course will require participation, and some classes may be taught via the Socratic method.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

None

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Cybercrime and Society, 3rd Edition by Majid Yar; Kevin F. Steinmetz and published by Sage Publications Ltd (UK).

Optional Readings and Supplementary Materials

- Additional Reading, such as Supreme Court cases and relevant US Laws will be assigned and available broadly on the Internet.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Assignments will include reading and briefing cases prior to class, and meaningful participation in class. Classes will be taught in the “Socratic method” of discussion. Participation will be measured by students’ preparation, the thoughtfulness of students’

comments, and how well students listen to and respond to each other. Students will receive up to 10 points for their oral contributions to class discussions.

Discussion and in-class participation assessment:

- Participation accounts for 10% of the final grade. Instructors actively note student participation during the semester.
- Punctual and regular attendance is required, as is in-class participation.
- Students will be required to engage with professors and classmates in the Socratic method of questioning to engage in conversations.
- Students will be expected to come to class having read previously assigned reading, prepared with meaningful questions, ideas, and criticisms to discuss with their peers and the professor.

Assessment of exams and assignments include:

1. Ability of student to identify key legal issues and prioritize between the main issue and peripheral considerations by the court.
2. Ability of student to identify and assess strengths and weaknesses in legal reasoning.
3. Ability of the student to analyze and consider the public policy implications on any given issue.
4. Communicate responses to questions clearly and concisely in writing.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam:

- Midterm and Final exams will be conducted in-class. Students should expect exams to take up to 2 hours.
- For different accommodations, students must speak to Professors at least 2 weeks in advance of Midterm or Final.
- The midterm exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short essay questions based on the writing assignments and material covered in class through Week 7.
- The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short essay questions based on the writing assignments and material covered in class from throughout the entire semester (Week 1 - Week 15).

Assignment Submission Policy

- 3 Assignments during the course of the Semester
 - Assignment 1 will take place in-class during Week 4
 - Assignment 2 will take place in-class during Week 8
 - Assignment 3 will take place in-class during Week 12
- All assignments will take place in-class (approx. 30 minutes)
- Assignments will involve providing a written response to multiple choice or short answer questions stemming from the discussions and required reading from the preceding weeks.
- Assignments are each worth 10 points, with the two highest Assignment Grades counting towards your highest Grade.

- There will be no make-up opportunities for Assignments.

Participation

- Participation accounts for 10% of the final grade. Instructors actively note student participation during the semester.
 - Punctual and regular attendance is required, as is in-class participation. Full participation credit will not be given for attendance only.
 - Students will be required to engage with professors and classmates in the Socratic method of questioning to engage in conversations.
 - Students will be expected to come to class having read previously assigned reading, prepared with meaningful questions, ideas, and criticisms to discuss with their peers and the professor.

Grading Breakdown

Table 1 Grading Breakdown

Assessment Tool (assignments)	Points	% of Grade
In-Class Participation	10	10%
Assignments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foundational Laws and Theory 2. Investigating Cybercrimes 3. Cybersecurity & Corporate Concerns 	15 Points Each Assignment <i>(Highest 2 Assignments will be counted towards final grade for a maximum of 30 points)</i>	30%
Midterm	30	30%
Final	30	30%
TOTAL	100	100%

Grading Scale

Table 2 Course Grading Scale

Letter grade	Corresponding numerical point range
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below



Grading Timeline

Grading will be completed within 3 weeks after submission (Assignments/Midterms and Finals).

Course Specific Policies

None

Attendance

Students are expected to not only attend class, but participate in class discussion (worth 10% of the final grade). Full participation credit will not be given for attendance only. Instructors actively note student participation during the semester.

Classroom norms

- Listen actively, attentively and respectfully.
- Be respectful to each other.
- Be respectful of what others are saying, giving respect to each other's views, questions, comments and beliefs.
- Always use a respectful tone, and avoid inflammatory language, put-downs, name-calling and other attacks or words that may disparage or belittle each others.
- Focus on ideas and concepts, not the people making them.
- Be courteous. Don't interrupt or distract others while they are speaking.

Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and

extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or “recycle” work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Students must do their own work for all assignments, the midterm and final. All work submitted must be original, and done without the assistance of others or other technological aids.

If found responsible for an academic violation, students may be assigned university outcomes, such as suspension or expulsion from the university, and grade penalties, such as an “F” grade on the assignment, exam, and/or in the course.

Use of AI in this Course

Except where expressly permitted by the instructor, all work submitted for this course, including exams and papers, must be completed by you, personally. Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to generate text as part of preparing your work is strictly prohibited. Submission or presentation of material generated by AI, including summarizing, paraphrasing, or editing such material, will be considered a violation of Academic Integrity. For additional information, please refer to the Academic Integrity and Plagiarism portions of the Gould Student Handbook and the USC Student Handbook.

Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student

Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Course Evaluations

Course evaluations will be provided at the end of the class to each student.

Course Schedule

(TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Table 3 Course schedule

Week	Date	Topics/Daily Activities	Deliverables
1	Mon, Aug 21	Intro to Class: The Law We'll Cover What is Cybercrime What is Cybersecurity	
	Wed, Aug 23	Law: US Federal Criminal Process & Constitutional Issues in Criminal Law	
2	Mon, Aug 28	Law: US Cybercrime Statutes	
	Wed, Aug 30	Law: US Federal Criminal Process & Constitutional Issues in Criminal Law (Part 2)	
3	Mon, Sept 4	HOLIDAY	
	Wed, Sept 6	US: Criminal Investigation Techniques (Part 1)	
4	Mon, Sept 11	US: Criminal Investigation Techniques (Part 2)	
	Wed, Sept 13	Legal Theories	In-Class Assignment 1
5	Mon, Sept 18	Law: US Data Disclosure Laws (ECPA)	
	Wed, Sept 20	FISA / National Security Law	
6	Mon, Sept 25	International Cyber Laws	
	Wed, Sept 27	Law: Freedom of Speech Issues on the Internet / Section 230	
7	Mon, Oct 2	US: Sentencing & Criminal Punishments	
	Wed, Oct 4	MIDTERM	
8	Mon, Oct 9	Cybercrime: Schemes (Part 1)	
	Wed, Oct 11	Cybercrime: Schemes (Part 2)	In-Class Assignment 2
9	Mon, Oct 16	Cybercrime: Investigations (Part 1)	
	Wed, Oct 18	Cybercrime: Investigations (Part 2)	
10	Mon, Oct 23	Cybercrime: investigations (Part 3)	
	Wed, Oct 25	Digital Forensics	
11	Mon, Oct 30	Imminent Threats & Extremism	

	Wed, Nov 1	Financial Crimes	
12	Mon, Nov 6	Nation State Adversaries	
	Wed, Nov 8	Content Legal Issues: Child Safety and Non-Consensual Exploitive Imagery	In-Class Assignment 3
13	Mon, Nov 13	MDM: Misinformation, Disinformation and Malinformation	
	Wed, Nov 15	Corporate Cybersecurity Issues (Part 1)	
14	Mon, Nov 20	Corporate Cybersecurity Issues (Part 2)	
	Wed, Nov 22	HOLIDAY	
15	Mon, Nov 27	Incident Response	
	Wed, Nov 29	Artificial Intelligence & Security	
FINAL	Wed, Dec 6	FINAL EXAM	Refer to the final exam schedule in the USC <i>Schedule of Classes</i> at classes.usc.edu .

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, comprises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.