



ITSY 2343 088: Computer System Forensics (Online)

Course Syllabus: Spring 2025

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

Will McWhorter, Ph.D.

Office: Math / Science 114

Phone: 903-434-8223

Email: wmcwhorter@ntcc.edu

Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	9:00 – 11:00 12:30 – 1:30	9:00 – 11:00 12:30 – 1:30	9:00 – 11:00 12:30 – 1:30	9:00 – 11:00 12:30 – 1:30	None	By Appointment

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Catalog Course Description: (3 Semester Credit Hours)

In-depth study of system forensics including methodologies used for analysis of computer security breaches. Collect document and evaluate evidence to perform postmortem analysis of security breach.

Prerequisite(s): ITSY 1342

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will identify computer investigation issues.
- Students will identify legal issues associated with computer investigations.
- Students will collect document evidence and evaluate evidence.
- Students will evaluate network traffic.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Chapter Quizzes: 30%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Final Exam: 15%

Lab Assignments: 25%

Review Questions: 15%

Chapter Quizzes

There will be a quiz over each chapter of the book covered in the course. These quizzes will consist of mostly multiple-choice questions with a few short answer questions as well. Students will be allowed to use the textbook for reference. Chapter quizzes can be taken at home.

Midterm Exam

The Midterm Exam will consist of multiple-choice questions taken from multiple chapters of the book. The textbook can be used for reference during the exam. **The Midterm Exam is a proctored exam that must be taken at an approved testing facility.** For most NTCC students, the best location is the college testing center located in the Student Services Building. For students at other college, an approved testing location must be discussed with the course instructor. Makeup exams will not be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the test time.

Final Exam

The Final Exam will consist of multiple-choice questions taken from multiple chapters of the book. The textbook can be used for reference during the exam. **The Final Exam is a proctored exam that must be taken at an approved testing facility.** For most NTCC students, the best location is the college testing center located in the Student Services Building. For students at other college, an approved testing location must be discussed with the course instructor. Makeup exams will not be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the test time.

Lab Assignments

There will be a series of lab assignments designed to provide hands-on experience of various security concepts. These lab assignments are extremely important and will greatly enhance understanding of chapter topics.

Review Questions

Review questions from the end of each chapter will reinforce comprehension of concepts. These review questions are primarily multiple-choice questions. Review questions must be completed using the Blackboard interface in the course shell.

Required Instructional Materials:

Required Textbook

Title: Guide to Computer Forensics and Investigations, 6th edition

Author: Nelson, Phillips, and Stuart

Publisher: Cengage

ISBN Number:

ISBN-13: 978-1-337-56894-4

Optional Instructional Materials:

Related Digital Forensics YouTube Videos

Minimum Technology Requirements:

You will need to have a dependable personal computer to complete the work for this course. You may be required to install and use some security related software and utilities.

Required Computer Literacy Skills: Basic computer literacy skills and abilities such as typing, copy / paste, file management are required in order to be successful in this course.

Course Structure and Overview:

This course will be delivered through the online format using NTCC's Blackboard Learning Management System. The following general course information provides additional detail regarding expectations for the course.

Several elements are essential for your success in this course. You will need to be aware and understand these fully prior to starting the course.

- Online courses require extensive engagement (with other students, the instructor, and the course materials) as well as timely completion of assignments. Assignments are due by the posted due dates so keeping up with the schedule is essential to your success. Your personal schedule must allow you to keep up with the due dates for the readings, assignments, quizzes, and exams.
- You must have continuous access to a working and dependable computer and Internet provider.
- A USB flash drive for file storage and transport as well as headphones for listening to online lectures and other videos is recommended.
- Be prepared and read the appropriate material in the textbook as well as view the related course videos.
- You are expected to turn in completed assignments through Blackboard. Any assignments marked late by the interface may receive up to a 10% late penalty.
- No assignments will be accepted unreasonably late.

- Unless specifically indicated by the instructor, collaboration on assignments among students is not intended or allowed. Assignments are to be performed individually, and any material handed in by a student should represent that student's own work.
- If two students turn in assignments that are identical or very nearly identical, BOTH students will be given a 0 for that assignment. Don't copy another student's work, and don't let someone else copy yours.

Communications:

The best method for communication with the instructor is through email wmcwhorter@ntcc.edu Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours to student emails. It might take up to 48 hours on weekends. Students can also communicate in person outside of class by visiting the instructor during official office hours.

Course Policies:*Withdrawal*

Students who wish to drop the course must do so by the deadline for student-initiated withdrawal. If circumstances cause you to stop attending classes, then you must still officially withdraw or expect to receive an F in the course. In addition, the instructor may withdraw a student from the course if the student fails to attend three consecutive class meetings.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Timeline (NOTE: instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this timeline at any point in the term): See attached schedule sheet.

Tentative Schedule Spring 2025

Northeast Texas Community College and your instructor reserve the right to make modifications in content, schedule, and requirements as necessary to promote the best education possible within prevailing conditions affecting this course.

Week	Monday	Textbook Readings and Lecture
1	January 20	Chapter 1: Understanding the Digital Forensics Profession and Investigations Chapter 2: The Investigator's Office and Laboratory
2	January 27	Chapter 3: Data Acquisition
3	February 3	Chapter 4: Processing Crime and Incident Scenes
4	February 10	Chapter 5: Working with Windows and CLI Systems
5	February 17	Chapter 6: Current Digital Forensics Tools
6	February 24	Chapter 7: Linux and Macintosh File Systems
7	March 3	Chapter 8: Recovering Graphics Files
8	March 10	Midterm Exam
	March 17	SPRING BREAK
9	March 24	Chapter 9: Digital Forensics Analysis and Validation
10	March 31	Chapter 10: Virtual Machine Forensics, Live Acquisitions, and Network Forensics
11	April 7	Chapter 11: E-mail and Social Media Investigations
12	April 14	Chapter 12: Mobile Device Forensics and the Internet of Anything
13	April 21	Chapter 13: Cloud Forensics
14	April 28	Chapter 14: Report Writing for High-Tech Investigations Chapter 15: Expert Testimony in Digital Investigations
15	May 5	Chapter 16: Ethics for the Expert Witness
16	May 12	Final Exam