



# Syllabus for CYB 730 Computer Criminology

---

**NOTE:** This syllabus document contains the basic information of this course. The most current syllabus is available in the full course.

## Course Description

A primer on modern criminology with specific attention to the aspects of technology that facilitate criminal behaviors. Topics include computer crime laws, criminological theories of computer crime, courtroom and evidentiary procedure, idiographic and nomothetic digital profiling, computer crime victimology, habit/authorship attribution, stylometry, and case linkage analysis.

## Prerequisite(s)

- None

## Program Outcomes

This course addresses the following competencies and program outcomes of the Master of Science in Cybersecurity:

- Program Outcome 11: Assess trends in computer criminology and social behaviors related to technology use, including physical security
- Program Outcome 15: Identify and assess attacks through forensics
- Program Outcome 16: Interpret legal implications of security incidents and conduct investigations using industry best practices

## Course Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

1. Examine and interpret digital evidence.
2. Perform case linkage analysis, idiographic, and nomothetic digital profiling.
3. Perform stylometric and forensic iconological analysis of text and images, with the goal of habit/authorship attribution and behavioral analysis.
4. Provide expert testimony in legal situations for the presentation of digital evidence adhering to relevant legal processes and procedures.
5. Interpret and apply existing computer crime laws and constitutional law as it applies to technology usage.
6. Interpret the legal implications of security incidents, including evidence chain of custody and the steps of the investigative process.
7. Apply criminological theory to the investigation, apprehension, and study of computer criminals.
8. Assess trends in the evolution of victimology in computer crimes.
9. Engage in professional collaboration and communication with technical and nontechnical stakeholders on issues related to security

## Course Components

### Quizzes

There are five quizzes in the course. These quizzes cover foundational concepts and reinforce learning objectives from the weekly topics. They are not cumulative. Some of them can be challenging and may require a bit of research and critical thinking, but if you engage with the learning resources, you should find the quizzes to be very manageable.

### Discussions

This course will contain regular discussions as a class via topical message boards. The objective of the discussions is to give you an opportunity to voice your opinion on a matter, provide feedback to your peers and instructor, and to crowd-source information on the topics. They should be considered a part of the coursework and will be graded as a participation grade at the end of the semester.

### Assignments

Throughout the semester, you will be analyzing a case. You are supplied with case evidence and apply the concepts covered to identify and classify evidence, create an inventory of behavioral artifacts, attribute criminological theories based on the artifact inventory, and develop a digital profile of an individual. Finally, you'll synthesize your findings in a witness statement (see below).

In addition to the case assignment, there are other assignments that you will complete (e.g., facial recognition exercise, case law review) to ensure you've covered all the desired outcomes for the course.

### Witness Statement and Mock Deposition

This assignment requires that you analyze your work from previous assignments as well as the case you've been analyzing throughout the semester. You will need to produce a witness statement, which is a report that summarizes the findings of the case. You will then schedule a time to attend a mock deposition with the instructor. At this deposition, you will be questioned on the contents of your statement. This is considered the capstone project for this course and will probably require using most of what you learn over the semester to complete both the statement and deposition.

## Grading

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate all course requirements and to determine your final grade:

Grade	Percentage Range
<b>A</b>	90% or greater
<b>A-</b>	87% - < 90%
<b>B+</b>	83% - < 87%
<b>B</b>	80% - < 83%
<b>B-</b>	77% - < 80%
<b>C+</b>	73% - < 77%
<b>C</b>	70% - < 73%
<b>C-</b>	65% - < 70%
<b>F</b>	0 - < 65%

Assignments	Percentage
<b>5 Quizzes</b>	20%
<b>10 Discussions</b>	5%
<b>5 Assignments</b>	50%
<b>Witness Statement and Mock Deposition</b>	25%
<b>Total</b>	100%