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George Mason University
CRIM 490 - 004
Cybercrime and Online Deviance
Fall 2021

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Instructor: Dr. Jin R. Lee
Email: jlee331@gmu.edu
Office Location: Enterprise Hall, Room 303
Class Meetings: Mondays & Wednesdays (9:00AM – 10:15AM)
Class Location: Krug Hall 210
In-Person Office Hours: Mondays 11:00AM – 1:00PM
Online Office Hours: Contact via email to arrange virtual office hour meetings

REQUIRED TEXT

Holt, T.J., Bossler, A.M., & Seigfried-Spellar, K.C. (2017). *Cybercrime and Digital Forensics: An Introduction, 2nd Edition.* Routledge Press.

Additional required readings and materials will be posted on Blackboard and/or shared in class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The objectives of this course are to critically examine the ways that technology has shaped human behavior and enabled new patterns of offending and victimization over the last three decades. This course will help students understand the complex nature of cybercrime, as well as its significance across a variety of disciplines including the social and information sciences. Discussions will center on the rise of computers, digital technology, and cybercrime, as well as the difficulties in measuring and combating these emerging offenses. A considerable amount of time will also be spent examining different types of cybercrime and online deviance, such as computer hacking, fraud, illicit online markets, and various forms of online interpersonal violence offending and victimization (e.g., cyberbullying, online harassment, revenge porn/nonconsensual pornography). The development of security technologies used to defend against these attacks, as well as the laws and policies used to investigate, prosecute, and deter these behaviors will also be discussed.

TEACHING STRATEGY

The course is taught by PowerPoint slides/class discussions, reflection papers, quizzes, term paper assignments, and academic/scholarly readings.

POWERPOINT SLIDES AND LECTURES

The PowerPoint slides from each class will be posted on Blackboard. The PowerPoint slides are not a substitute for the assigned readings.

A NOTE ON CONTENT

By its nature, criminology and criminal justice requires us to focus on some controversial and mature topics, such as violence, sexuality, victimization, racial tension, etc. While debates are welcome, any and all forms of disrespect and discrimination will not be tolerated. If there are any topics that may cause you any distress, please let me know.

GRADES

Reflection Papers (30% of grade): There will be three (3) reflection paper assignments, each worth 10% of the final grade. Reflection papers are due on a rotating basis, beginning the second week of classes (e.g., Week 2, Week 10, Week 14). Students are required to answer the following questions in their reflection papers: (1) Summarize one of the topics covered in this week's lesson, including a discussion of its main principles, tenets, and/or related research; and (2) state why you found this topic/aspect most interesting. Students may discuss course content from both the current and previous portion of the course. For example, Reflection Paper 1 (assigned on Week 2) can be about course material introduced in Week 1 or Week 2. To provide another example, Reflection Paper 2 (assigned on Week 10) can draw from course material from Weeks 3 to 10. While students may employ a similar format and organization style in their Reflection Papers, they must not use the exact language from paper to paper. For instance, students should not express "X topic was interesting because it helped explain something I was always curious about" across all their papers. While the layout and organization of papers may be similar, papers' content <u>must</u> be different and not overlap from week to week. In addition, while there is no word-count requirement for these Reflection Papers, you are required to give substantive thought to the question/topic and demonstrate your comprehension and command of class material. <u>Reflection Papers are due in hardcopy format at the start of class (9:00-9:10AM).</u>

Quizzes (20% of grade): There will be two (2) quizzes, each worth 10% of the final grade. These quizzes are designed to assess students' reading comprehension and understanding of course material. Quizzes will consist of ten (10) multiple choice questions and will evaluate students on material covered during both the current and previous portion of the course. For example, Quiz 1 (assigned on Week 6) will assess students' knowledge of course content introduced in Weeks 1 to 6. Similarly, Quiz 2 (assigned on Week 12) will assess students' knowledge of course content introduced in Weeks 7 to 12. Students are responsible for all assigned readings and PowerPoint slides. A failure to spend adequate time reviewing both the PowerPoint slides and required readings will result in poor grades. <u>Quizzes will be distributed at the start of class (9:00-9:10AM).</u> Students will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz.

Term Papers (50% of grade): There will be two (2) term papers, each worth 25% of the final grade. You will be expected to write two papers (e.g., four to six pages in length) on different topics. Paper topics will be provided in a separate document on Blackboard, labeled "Term Paper 1," and "Term Paper 2." You will be provided with a paper topic typically requiring you to answer a question (or a series of questions) as fully as is possible using supporting arguments from <u>both</u> outside research articles and the required course texts. These papers may require you to react to a statement or policy, apply theory to a certain cybercrime, critique a film, or address a current and topical issue in cybercrime and criminal justice. The due date for each paper is indicated in the course schedule (see below). <u>You will be required to upload your paper to Blackboard and submit a hardcopy in class.</u> You must provide a word doc version (.doc) on Blackboard, as no other file format will be accepted. Any other format will be considered invalid and counted as a 0 toward your final grade. Papers must also be submitted in APA format, 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins throughout. Title pages and references do not count toward total page length.

Your grade for each paper will be based on content (maximum of 10 points), organization (maximum of 10 points), and language/writing mechanics (maximum of 5 points). The best papers will provide a substantive and relevant exploration of the topic with good detail, written at a college level, use appropriate citations to demonstrate points, and illustrate a clear understanding of the topic in an analytical and persuasive manner. These papers will also be clearly and logically presented using good grammar and proper citations. Following these steps will increase your likelihood of success.

Before you submit your paper, please take the following four (4) steps to ensure you get as many points as possible for the assignment:

1. Re-read your paper multiple times before submission. Since your writing is a reflection of your thoughts, it is vital that you take the time to read through your paper and check that the ideas make sense and flow properly together.

2. Make sure you spell check your paper using both Microsoft Word and also by hand. Spell check does not identify when you have put in a common misspelling like "too" when you mean "two." Also, do not use contractions as they do not belong in a professional document.

3. Always write and format your paper using APA conventions/standards: See website below for general instructions and guidelines on APA formatting. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

4. Ensure that all your references are cited properly. Please quote an author if you feel their comments support or refute an idea. However, quote only when absolutely necessary, since it will make more sense if you put the ideas into your own words. If you put an author's ideas in your own words, make sure you reference the author at the end of the sentence. If you have any questions on citations, please contact me immediately. Plagiarism is a serious offense and one the University does not take lightly. There is only so much I can do to alleviate the consequences if you engage in plagiarism. You will not get any credit for the assignment if you plagiarize and will be sent to the Dean to discuss consequences.

GRADING SCALE
93 or above   = A (4.00 Points)
90-92.99   = A- (3.67 Points)
87-89.99   = B+ (3.33 Points)
83-86.99   = B (3.00 Points)
80-82.99   = B- (2.67 Points)
77-79.99   = C+ (2.33 Points)
73-76.99   = C (2.00 Points)
70-72.99   = C- (1.67 Points)
65-69.99   = D (1.00 Points)
64.99 or less   = F (0 Points)

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance
Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

Class Participation
You are expected to complete the assigned readings and review PowerPoint slides throughout the course. Students are encouraged to express their opinions and views on the topics and issues discussed in this course. If you do not understand something, feel free to ask questions. This is the easiest way to do well in the course.

Office Hours
Office hours will be held both in-person and online by appointment using either Zoom, Skype, or email—whichever works best for both the instructor and the student. Online appointments should be made at least 48 hours in advance for scheduling purposes (i.e., same-day appointment will not be accepted). In-person and online appointments should be requested by emailing the instructor (jlee331@gmu.edu). Make sure to include your name, the course code, and a few days/times that work best for you. The instructor will then coordinate a day/time that fits both schedules.

Missed Exams/Assignments/Deadlines
Make-up evaluations (e.g., reflection papers, quizzes, and term papers) *will not* be given except in cases of extreme circumstance. Accompanying written documentation is required as per University policy. Documentation does not guarantee that a make-up evaluation or extension will be given. As the professor in this course, I have the discretion to determine what cases warrant a make-up and what cases do not. Finally, you must notify me *before* the day of the evaluation's deadline to explain your absence. If you do not adhere by any of the aforementioned rules, you will not be given the opportunity to complete the make-up. Reasons pertaining to personal, technical, or negligence issues (e.g., laptop/computer not working; Internet connection was bad/faulty on the day the assignment/quiz was due; mismanaged my time; other course assignments overlap with this one, etc.) will not be considered excusable circumstances. If other issues that hinder students' performance and class progress arise, students should contact the professor in advance to discuss alternative action plans.

Emailing Etiquette
Please read the following article for a useful guide on email etiquette:https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087.

While I will be checking Blackboard email, please email me at jlee331@gmu.edu using your GMU emails on the Outlook platform for faster responses. In addition, please put the course number in the subject line and sign your email with your name. I will usually answer emails within 24-48 hours. However, if you have not received a response from me within 48 hours, feel free to email again just in case I did not receive it.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Any form of disruption or disrespect towards your fellow classmates or me will not be tolerated—even if you think you are joking. Students guilty of such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action.

Academic Honesty

George Mason University's Honor Code requires all members of this community maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by the Mason Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/). Ignorance of the rules is not a valid defense. Familiarize yourself with this policy and remember your legal fundamentals.

Note: All graded work for this class (including reflection papers, quizzes, and term papers) must be completed independently. Please ensure that the work you submit in this class is your own and that you provide proper citations when referencing another person's words or ideas. Instructors are required to report all violations of the Honor Code to the Mason Honor Committee. Violations of the Honor Code may result in a failing grade for the assignment or exam, a failing grade for the course, or any additional penalties determined by the committee, including dismissal from the University.

Limits to Confidentiality

As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Non-Confidential Employee," and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, complicity, and retaliation to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-993-3686 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing *titleix@gmu.edu*.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit http://ds.gmu.edu/ for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email:ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

Drops and Adds

The last day to add this course is August 30, 2021. The last day to drop this course without tuition penalty (e.g., 100% tuition refund) is September 7, 2021. The last day to drop this course with tuition penalty (e.g., 50% tuition refund) is September 14, 2021. The last day to drop this course with full tuition penalty (e.g., 100% tuition liability) is September 27, 2021.

Commercialized Lecture Notes
Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.

UPDATED POLICIES FOR COURSES IN A CONTINUING PANDEMIC

Safe Return to Campus
All students taking courses with a face-to-face component are required to follow the university's public health and safety precautions and procedures outlined on the university Safe Return to Campus webpage (*https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus*). Similarly, all students in face-to-face and hybrid courses must also complete the Mason COVID Health Check daily, seven days a week. The COVID Health Check system uses a color code system and students will receive either a Green, Yellow, or Red email response. Only students who receive a "green" notification are permitted to attend courses with a face-to-face component. If you suspect that you are sick or have been directed to self-isolate, please quarantine or get testing. Faculty are allowed to ask you to show them that you have received a Green email and are thereby permitted to be in class.

Students are required to follow Mason's current policy about facemask-wearing. As of August 11, 2021, all community members are required to wear a facemask in all indoor settings, including classrooms. An *appropriate facemask* must cover your nose and mouth at all times in our classroom. If this policy changes, you will be informed; however, students who prefer to wear masks either temporarily or consistently will always be welcome in the classroom.

Campus Closure or Emergency Class Cancelation/Adjustment
If the campus closes, or if a class meeting needs to be canceled or adjusted due to weather or other concern, students should check Blackboard [or other instruction as appropriate] for updates on how to continue learning and for information about any changes to events or assignments.

Course Materials and Student Privacy
All course materials posted to Blackboard or other course site are private to this class; by federal law, any materials that identify specific students (via their name, voice, or image) must not be shared with anyone not enrolled in this class.

Video recordings -- whether made by instructors or students -- of class meetings that include audio, visual, or textual information from other students are private and must not be shared outside the class.

Live video conference meetings (e.g. Collaborate or Zoom) that include audio, textual, or visual information from other students must be viewed privately and not shared with others in your household or recorded and shared outside the class.

COURSE SCHEDULE
(subject to change; all changes will be announced)

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings	Due
1	Aug. 23	Course Introduction	Course Syllabus	

	Aug. 25	Introduction to Computers and the Internet	Chapter 1 Grabosky, 2001	
2	Aug. 30	Cybercrime and Criminological Theory (Part 1)	Chapter 11	
	Sept. 1	Cyberspace, Cybercrime, and Society (Part 2)	Holt & Bossler, 2014 Holt, Bossler, & May, 2012	Reflection Paper 1
3	Sept. 6	**No Class – Labor Day**		
	Sept. 8	Understanding the Challenges in Measuring Cybercrime	Chapter 2	
4	Sept. 13	Computer Hackers and Hacking (Part 1)	Chapter 3	
	Sept. 15	Computer Hackers and Hacking (Part 2)	Steinmetz, 2015 Marcum et al., 2014	
5	Sept. 20	Malware and Computer Viruses (Part 1)	Chapter 4	
	Sept. 22	Malware and Computer Viruses (Part 2)	Chapter 4	
6	Sept. 27	Computer-Based Fraud and Economic Crimes (Part 1)	Chapter 6	
	Sept. 29	Computer-Based Fraud and Economic Crimes (Part 2)	Holt & Lampke, 2010	Quiz 1
7	Oct. 4	Digital Piracy (Part 1)	Chapter 5	
	Oct. 6	Digital Piracy (Part 2)	Higgins, Wolfe, & Ricketts, 2009 Hinduja, 2001	
8	Oct. 11	**No Class – Fall Break**		
	Oct. 13	Term Paper 1	Term Paper 1	Term Paper 1
9	Oct. 18	Pornography, Prostitution, and Sex Crimes (Part 1)	Chapter 7	
	Oct. 20	Pornography, Prostitution, and Sex Crimes (Part 2)	Holt & Blevins, 2007 Lee & Darcy, 2021	

10	Oct. 25	Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM), and Criminalized Online Sexual Activity (Part 1)	Chapter 8	
	Oct. 27	Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM), and Criminalized Online Sexual Activity (Part 2)	Holt et al., 2020 Quayle & Taylor, 2002	Reflection Paper 2
11	Nov. 1	Cyberstalking, Cyberbullying, and Online Harassment (Part 1)	Chapter 9	
	Nov. 3	Cyberstalking, Cyberbullying, and Online Harassment (Part 2)	Choi & Lee, 2017 Fissel, 2021 Hinduja & Patchin, 2008	
12	Nov. 8	Cyber-Terror and Cyberwarfare (Part 1)	Chapter 10	
	Nov. 10	Cyber-Terror and Cyberwarfare (Part 2)	Holt, 2012 Scrivens & Conway, 2019	Quiz 2
13	Nov. 15	Online Illicit Market Operations	Chapter 4 (pgs. 153-158) Chapter 6 (pgs. 235-247)	
	Nov. 17	**No Class – American Society of Criminology Conference**		
14	Nov. 22	Law Enforcement and Cybercrime Prevention	Chapters 12 & 14 Koziarski & Lee, 2020	Reflection Paper 3
	Nov. 24	**No Class – Thanksgiving**		
15	Nov. 29	Special Guest Presentation on Policing, Cybercrime Policing, and Careers in Law Enforcement by the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD)		
	Dec. 1	Term Paper 2	Term Paper 2	Term Paper 2
16	Dec. 8-15	**FINAL EXAM PERIOD**	**NO EXAM SCHEDULED**	**ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY BREAK**