

Cosumnes River College
CISS 300
Introduction to Information Systems Security
An Online Course
Fall 2026 8w1: August 22 – October 14

Instructor: Buddy Spisak **Online/In Person Office Hours:** Mondays/Wednesdays 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Using this link: <https://lrccd.zoom.us/j/82562480564>
Office: SOC 115 *Office hours are cancelled on all Cosumnes River College (CRC) holidays.*
Phone: (916) 691-7062

Email: spisakj@crc.losrios.edu The typical turnaround time for responding to emails is two to three business days. Email responses may be delayed on weekends and CRC holidays. To ensure a timely response, please include your full name and course number in every email.

Course Web page: <https://lrccd.instructure.com>
Instructor Web page: <http://crc.losrios.edu/spisakj/>

Prerequisites: None

Corequisite: None

Lecture/Lab: Fully online (13192) Asynchronous – optional live office hours via Zoom on Thursdays 8 to 9 p.m.

Accepted for Credit: CSU

Class Credits: 1 unit

Textbook: No textbook is required for this course. All the reading materials are available via the Cisco Networking Academy at <http://netacad.com>.

Labs: Some labs are done through NDG Netlabs via Canvas.

Resource Materials: CISCO Network Academy Curriculum

Supplies: Earbuds or a headset could be beneficial when listening to videos and a camera for Zoom conferencing.

A flash drive (at least 16GB, but 32GB is preferred) is recommended to store your work for the class.

Course Description:

This course is intended for beginner users who want to increase their understanding of information security issues and practices. It is intended for end users who use computers at home or in the office. The course covers all of the need-to-know information about staying secure, including up-to-date information on relevant topics such as protecting mobile devices and wireless local area networks. Students will learn how to maintain a secure environment and avoid security attacks through a series of real-life user experiences, hands-on projects, and case projects.

Student Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

ANALYZE FUNDAMENTAL SECURITY CONCEPTS (SLO 1).

- Describe the challenges of securing information and define information security and explain why it is important.
- Identify the types of attackers that are common today.
- List the basic steps of an attack.

APPLY SOUND PERSONAL SECURITY PRINCIPALS (SLO 2).

- Describe personal security defenses.
- Describe the attacks against passwords.
- Describe identity theft and the risks of using social networking.

IDENTIFY THE NEEDS FOR A SECURE COMPUTER (SLO 3).

- List and describe the different types of attacks on computers.
- Explain how to manage patches.
- Describe how to install and use antivirus software.
- Describe how to recover from an attack.

CONFIGURE A STRATEGY TO FIGHT AGAINST INTERNET-BASED ATTACKS (SLO 4).

- Explain how the Internet and e-mail work.
- Describe how attackers can use mobile code, cookies, and fraudulent digital certificates.
- List the security risks with using e-mail.

FORMULATE PROVEN SECURITY PRACTICES AT THE WORKPLACE (SLO 5).

- Define physical access and list the tools used to restrict it.
- Describe how tokens and cards can be used for security.
- Explain what a security policy is and list several different policies.
- Define technology and procedural access control.
- List the steps to be taken to prepare for a crisis.

Methods of Measuring Student Learning Outcomes:

- You will demonstrate knowledge of course concepts through class discussions and achievement on quizzes and a final examination.
- You will demonstrate competence in the coursework by completing lab work and participating in discussions during the semester.

Student Obligations:

- **Attendance:** Since this course is online, it is important to participate frequently in the class.
- **Late Work:** Unless noted all assignments are due on Sunday by midnight each week. Late work will be accepted ONLY if you have contacted me prior to the due date either by email or voice mail. In general, late work is due the next week, and no late assignments may be turned in after one week from the original due date regardless of the reason. For every day an assignment is late, you will lose 10% of its grade.

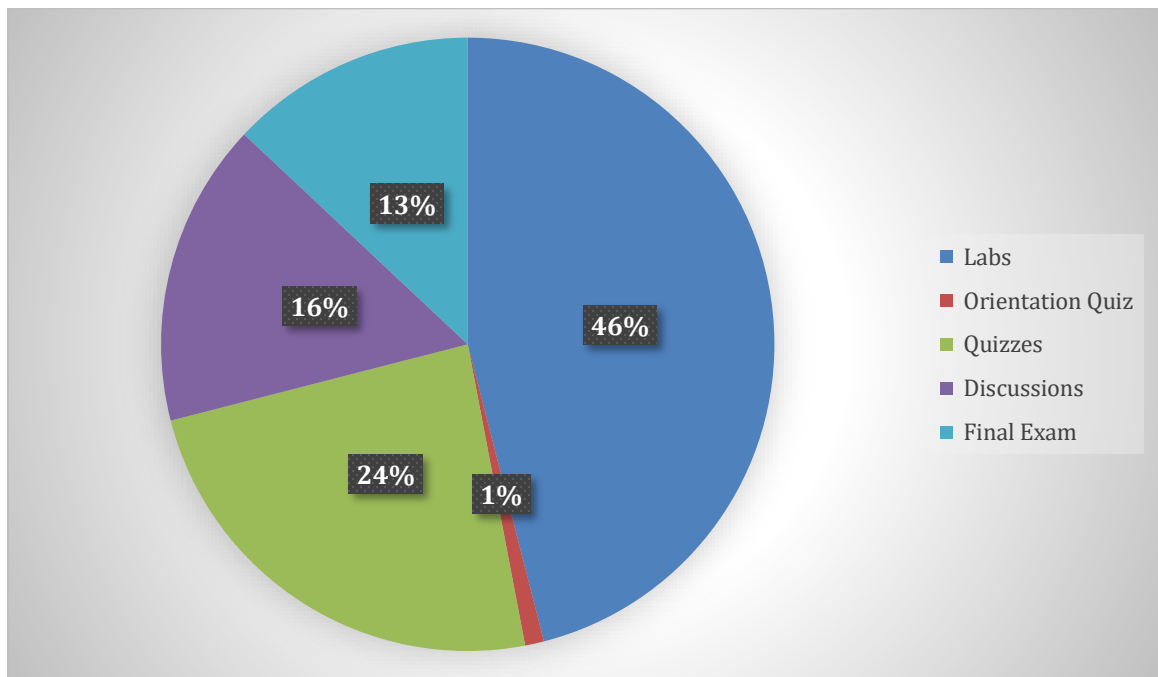
- **Due Dates:** Unless noted, all assignments will be submitted in Canvas. If, for any reason, you cannot access Canvas or are unable to submit the assignment on time, please email it to me instead so that you are not penalized for being late. Quizzes and discussion items cannot be taken past their due dates. If you miss a quiz and you want to make up points, you can take advantage of the extra credit assignments posted in Canvas. Everyone is welcome to work on the extra credit assignments. Typically, they are five to ten points each, depending on the difficulty of the assignment.
- **Labs:** There will be seven labs credited for homework for the class. The due dates are in the **SCHEDULE** portion of this handout. We will spend a lot of time working on lab activities. Each lab has a set of review questions that you will need to answer in Canvas to receive points for that assignment.
- **Academic Integrity and Lab Work:** All lab assignments in this course must be a product of individual work unless explicitly stated otherwise. While students are encouraged to discuss concepts and troubleshooting strategies, each student must independently complete and submit their own lab work with proof of completion. Submitting lab work that was created by another student, whether currently enrolled or not, constitutes academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Reusing or copying another student's lab answers or review questions
 - Submitting screenshots, terminal output, configuration files, or logs generated by someone else
 - Sharing completed NetLab or lab results for submission

Any lab submission determined not to be the student's own work will receive zero credit, and repeated violations may result in additional disciplinary action, up to and including failure of the course, in accordance with college policy.

- **Discussions:** I want everyone to take a proactive approach to learning this material. This includes using the discussion feature in Canvas to ask questions and answer other students' questions. I will also post questions each week that you can answer to further your understanding of the material. I expect two postings each week unless otherwise noted.
- **Language Matters:** Part of communicating effectively involves communicating correctly with one another. This is not an English class; however, I will be looking at and commenting on the basic accuracy of your written English, such as sentence boundaries, spelling, and other basic grammar issues. While you will not fail the class because of your English, you may lose some points for frequent and repeated errors. Remember that your use of English can influence your readers positively—or negatively.
- **Skills Exam and Final Exam:** These exams will be administered through Canvas.
- **Plagiarism Policy:** It is inappropriate, and a violation of academic policy, to copy information from any source (including, but not limited to, textbooks, magazine articles, newspaper articles and internet articles) without giving proper credit to the author by using standard quotation procedures such as in-line quotes, footnotes, endnotes, etc. Quotes may not exceed 25% of the assignment's total length. You will receive no credit (0 points) for any assignment that copies any material from any other source without giving proper credit to the author(s). Repeat offenders of this policy are subject to academic discipline as outlined in the policies published by the college.
- **Cheating:** Students who cheat will receive a failing grade for the course. (See the Plagiarism and Cheating page of the college website (<https://crc.losrios.edu/about-us/our-values/student-rights-and-responsibilities/plagiarism-and-cheating>.)
- **CRC Honor Code:** Academic integrity requires honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. [See the Cosumnes River College Honor Code posted on the college website (<https://crc.losrios.edu/about-us/our-values/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-honor-code>)].
- **Email:** Every student will be required to have an email account. If you do not have an email account, the college provides free email accounts for all current students.
- **Email etiquette:** I will not tolerate rude and demeaning comments or emails to anyone in this class. Please keep your comments and emails topic-related. If I determine that a comment or email to anyone else in the class is rude or demeaning, I will warn you once. If your behavior continues to be unacceptable, I will refer you to the administration of the college for disciplinary action.

- **Personal belongings:** All cell phones, beepers, pagers, etc. should be turned off or set to vibrate during any of the online lectures/labs.
- **Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me or contact the Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services at 916-691-7275 as soon as possible.
- **Canvas:** This class utilizes a product called "Canvas." It is highly recommended that you check the website frequently for scheduling updates and homework assignments. Most of the homework assignments and quizzes will be done on Canvas.
- **Online Course Responsibilities:** This course requires significant self-motivation. You must not get behind. Labs and weekly assignments can take up to 3 hours to finish. Please don't try to finish them in one day. Not all activities are created equal. Some may take a bit longer than others. You would normally spend 3 hours per week in class for this course: a total of 18 hours. Allow yourself at least 6 hours per week to complete the activities online, including the time spent writing the class discussion postings. You should plan additional time to read the textbook and study for the quizzes. Some people believe that an online format provides a much easier way to study this subject than an on-campus framework because they love to read and avoid parking problems. Others feel very intimidated at first. Be patient as you work your way through the activities.
- **AI Policy:** We now live in a world where it has become very easy and, therefore, very tempting to use ChatGPT or other AI tools for course assignments. In this course, the use of AI is considered akin to receiving assistance from another person and raises the same concern that work is not your own. Therefore, the use of AI software for your own study purposes is allowed but using generative AI tools to substantially complete an assignment, particularly written assignments that require your own interpretation and analysis, is not permitted. Your voice, your words, are more important and interesting than anything AI can create. Should your work be flagged by AI detection software, I intend to give you the benefit of the doubt, have a conversation with you first, and offer the opportunity to revise any work that is AI-generated. In return, I expect you to be honest and upfront about your AI usage and ask for extensions or support if you need it.
- **Online Access via Zoom:** This class utilizes a product called "Zoom." It is highly recommended that you are in a quiet room without distractions, have stable internet access, and use a video camera with a quality microphone so that you are seen and heard by everyone.

Grading:



Course Topic	Points	Total	Approximate % the of Grade
Labs (7)	50	350	46
Orientation Quiz (1)	10	10	1
Quizzes (6)	30	180	24
Discussions (6)	20	120	16
Final Exam (1)	100	100	13

Point System: There are 760 total assigned points.

Grade Ranges: A=684-760, B=608-683, C=532-607, D=456-531, F=0-455

Schedule: It is tentative and can change during the term. All changes will be located under the "Announcements" section in Canvas for the course.

	Day:		Lecture/Lab Schedule:	Assignment Due:	Due Date (By Midnight):
Week 1	Thur.	8/27	Orientation and Introductions	View the Online Orientation	Sun., Aug. 30
			Introduction to Packet Tracer	Orientation Disc.	
			Module 1: Cybersecurity Threats, Vulnerabilities, and Attacks	Orientation Quiz	
			Lab #1		
Week 2	Thur.	9/3	Module 2: Securing Networks	Lab Review #1	Sun., Sep. 6
			Lab #2	Disc. 1 (Mod. 1)	
				Quiz #1 (Mod. 1)	
Week 3	Thur.	9/10	Module 3: Attacking the Foundation	Lab Review #2	Sun., Sep. 13
			Module 4: Attacking What We Do	Disc. 2 (Mod. 2)	
			Lab #3	Quiz #2 (Mod. 2)	
Week 4	Thur.	9/17	Module 5: Wireless Network Communication	Lab Review #3	Sun., Sep. 20
			Module 6: Network Security Infrastructure	Disc. 3 (Mod. 3&4)	
			Lab #4	Quiz #3 (Mod. 3&4)	
Week 5	Thur.	9/24	Module 7: The Windows Operating System	Lab Review #4	Sun., Sep. 27
				Disc. 4 (Mod. 5&6)	
			Lab #5	Quiz #4 (Mod. 5&6)	
Week 6	Thur.	10/1	Module 8: Linux Overview	Lab Review #5	Sun., Oct. 4
			Lab #6	Disc. 5 (Mod. 7)	
				Quiz #5 (Mod. 7)	
Week 7	Thur.	10/8	Module 9: System and Endpoint Protection	Lab Review #6	Sun., Oct 11
			Module 10: Cybersecurity Principles, Practices, and Processes	Disc. 6 (Mod. 8)	
			Lab #7	Quiz #6 (Mod. 8)	
			Final Review		
			What is next after this class? meeting		
Week 8			Final Exam	Lab Review #7	All work needs to be turned in Wed., Oct. 14
				Final Exam	