

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 161: Introduction to Cybercrime**  
**Spring 2023**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Heather (Hyunjung) So
<b>Email:</b>	heather.so@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Location:</b>	Zoom (By Appointment Only)
<b>Office Days/Time</b>	By appointment on Fridays, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
<b>Class Location:</b>	Sweeney Hall 346
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday and Wednesday, 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Any 100W

**Course Description**

This course explores how an interconnected world has modified how existing criminal activity is conducted and how new criminal opportunities have been created. Students will examine the history and complex nature of computer-related crime and how societies have attempted to respond. Students will discuss the different types of cybercriminals, including motives, rationale, and methods of attack. We will also evaluate various legal and regulatory issues in cyberspace, including surveillance, sting operations, current and proposed legislation, user-reporting initiatives, identity filtering/blocking technologies, vigilante movements, individual rights, and international law enforcement cooperation.

**Course Format**

This course utilizes the [Canvas Learning Management System](#) as a means for distributing course materials such as syllabus, handouts, lecture slides, assignment instructions, and communications about changes to the course. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) to learn of updates. For help using Canvas Resource page, visit [http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student\\_resources](http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources).

As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes, as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notification of these disruptions will be posted on the Blackboard login page. Scheduled downtimes are not an excuse for late work. However, if there is an unscheduled downtime for a significant period of time, I will make an adjustment if it occurs close to the due date.

**Course Goals**

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the nature of the cybercrime. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO #1: Distinguish between the different types of cybercrimes, including who/what they target, how/where they are conducted, and why they persist.
- CLO #2: Describe the impacts of the Internet on the opportunities created for committing traditional crimes (e.g., bullying) and new crimes (e.g., phishing).
- CLO #3: Identify the challenges faced nationally and internationally at combating cybercrime and the steps taken by organizations to address these challenges.
- CLO #4: Use what they have learned to increase their own security and privacy when online.
- CLO #5: Apply what they have learned to cybercrime-related current events.

## Required Readings

- **Textbook:** None.
- **Articles:** Supplied electronically via Canvas.

## Library Liaison

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison, Anamika Megwalu, by 408-808-2089 or [anamika.megwalu@sjsu.edu](mailto:anamika.megwalu@sjsu.edu)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

### 1. Weekly Readings and Discussion Board Assignments (10%)

Weekly readings and assignments can be found in the syllabus, as well as on the Modules tab on Canvas. All discussion assignments become available on Sunday at 12:00 am PST and initial posts are due by Thursday at 11:59 pm PST of their respective week (see course schedule below). In addition to the initial post, two substantive responses to your classmates' postings by Sunday at 11:59pm PST are required for full grade. Please note that late submission will not be accepted.

Students are expected to log onto Canvas 3-4 times per week, or if possible, log on daily, to check for updates and announcements. There will be cut-off times that will close Canvas. If you do not post your responses to discussions before this cut-off time, you will **NOT** receive the points for that discussion board. Students who anticipate missing the cut-off times are responsible for making arrangements with the instructor prior to the cut-off times.

You are required to be an active participant in the class, which means that you are to prepare your own threads, read other students' discussion threads, and respond to other students' threads with substantive observations.

This course will ask students to make a claim regarding the weekly discussion board posts, and support that claim with reason and evidence. The written work you submit will reflect your own thinking about information you obtain from the required readings, PowerPoints, and other course-related experiences.

## 2. Group Presentation (20%)

The students will be assigned to a group and each group will deliver a presentation about the topic of their respective week (see course schedule below). The purpose of a group presentation is to share the most recent cases, news, or events on a particular topic. Please note that failure to participating or presenting the group presentation will not be able to make-up the grade. More details about the project and rubric will be provided in class and found in the Group Project Guidelines on Canvas.

## 3. Writing Assignment (20%)

There will be one writing assignment throughout the semester that will be 8 - 12 pages in length with 8 - 15 peer reviewed sources (double-spaced, single sided). Proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation is expected and will be factored into your grade. Plagiarized writing assignment will result in a failing grade for the course (i.e., a grade of "F"). **The due date of the writing assignment is April 4th, Friday by 11:59 pm PST.** Please note that late submission will not be accepted. More details regarding the structure of the writing assignment and rubric will be provided in class and found in the Writing Assignment Guidelines on Canvas. Writing assignments will be turned in via Canvas by using Turnitin.com.

## 4. Exams (25% per each exam)

In this course there is a Midterm Exam and Final Exam. Both exams are multiple choice and will cover course readings and PowerPoint slides. The final exam is not cumulative and will only include information covered after the Midterm exam. Each exam will be taken in person. Please note that makeup exams are not accepted. See the Course Schedule for dates of each exam.

## Grading Information

This class uses weighted grades. Your grade in the class will be based on the following:

Weekly Discussion	10%
Group Presentation	20%
Writing Assignment	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>In-Class Activity / Participation</i>	<i>5% (Extra Credit)</i>

## Grading Policy

Your overall grade is based on the Total percentage earned in the course:

<b>A+</b>	98% to 100%	<b>A</b>	95% to <98%	<b>A-</b>	90% to <95%
<b>B+</b>	85% to <90%	<b>B</b>	78% to <85%	<b>B-</b>	70% to <78%
<b>C+</b>	67% to <70%	<b>C</b>	63% to <67%	<b>C-</b>	60% to <63%
<b>F</b>	Below 60%				

## "Classroom" Protocol

Mutual respect and civility will be the foundation in this course. Every student will have an optimum opportunity for learning and gaining knowledge; differences of opinion are welcomed in a positive and encouraging manner. Some topics covered in this course may be considered sensitive, so please be respectful of all students' backgrounds and personal opinions.

## **University Policies**

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## **Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy**

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## JS 161, Introduction to Cybercrime Fall 2021 Course Schedule

*This course schedule is subject to change with fair notice, at the instructor's discretion. All reading assignments listed should be completed prior to class on that date. Additional readings may be assigned.*

Week	Date	Topics	Readings
1	1/25	<b>Introduction</b> - Course overview - Assignments - Canvas	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Crime Categories: How Techno-Criminals Operate (Carter, 1995)</li> <li>• IC3 2020 Report (FBI, 2021)</li> </ul>
2	1/30 – 2/3	<b>What is Cybercrime</b> - Computer and Internet basics - Cybercrime research - Routine Activity Theory	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical Evolution of Cybercrime (Choi, Lee, &amp; Louderback, 2019)</li> <li>• The Current State of Cybercrime Scholarship (Holt &amp; Bossler, 2014)</li> <li>• Defining Cybercrime (Payne, 2019)</li> </ul>
3	2/6 – 2/10	<b>Hacking</b> - Hacker culture - Legal issues - Hacking as a service	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Hacking (Guru99)</li> <li>• The Kill Chain (Lockheed Martin, 2015) MITRE ATT&amp;CK Framework (Petters, 2019)</li> </ul>
4	2/13 – 2/17	<b>Malware</b> -Viruses, worms, trojan horses, rootkits, keyloggers, and ransomware	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020 Cybersecurity Outlook Report (VMware, 2020)</li> <li>• The Evolution of Cybercrime and Cyberdefense (Trend Micro, 2018)</li> </ul>
5	2/20 – 2/24	<b>Privacy &amp; Security</b> - Surveillance - Passwords - Personal safety	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook Studies (Various Authors)</li> <li>• What is Social Engineering (Webroot)</li> <li>• Private Traits and Attributes (Kosinski, Stillwell, &amp; Graepel, 2013)</li> </ul>
6	2/27 – 3/3	<b>Identity Theft &amp; Fraud</b> - Identity theft and fraud - Social media & crime	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity Theft: Nature, Extent, and Global Response (Golladay, 2019)</li> <li>• Police Legitimacy in the Age of Social Media (Nhan &amp; Noakes, 2019)</li> </ul>
7	3/6 – 3/10	<b>Deep Web</b> - TOR - Digital currency - The Dark Web	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring the Deep Web (Trend Micro, 2015)</li> <li>• Cryptocurrency: Enforcement Framework (US DoJ, 2020)</li> </ul> <p><i>Midterm Exam Review – 3/8 (Wednesday)</i></p>

8	3/13 – 3/17	<b>Email Spam</b> - Legal issues - Legislation efforts - CAN-SPAM - Phishing/pharming	<i>Midterm Exam – 3/13 (Monday)</i> Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology Use Abuse and Public Perception (Furnell, 2019)</li> </ul>
9	3/20 – 3/24	<b>Radicalization &amp; Misinformation</b> - Terrorism - Fake news - Deep fakes	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Overload Helps Fake News Spread (Menczer &amp; Hills, 2020)</li> <li>• The Role of the Internet in Facilitating Violent Extremism and Terrorism (Scrivens, Gill, &amp; Conway, 2019)</li> </ul>
10	3/27 – 3/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Class (Spring Recess)</b></li> </ul>	
11	4/3 – 4/7	<b>Copyright Infringement</b> - What is it? - Who owns the data on the Internet? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - Piracy (peer-2-peer)</li> </ul>	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Oral History of Napster (Fortune, 2013)</li> </ul>
12	4/10 – 4/14	<b>Sex Crimes</b> - Human trafficking - Child sexual abuse - Sexting - Self-produced & revenge pornography	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Past, Present, and Future of Online Child Sexual Exploitation (Westlake, 2019)</li> <li>• Trafficking in Persons Report (Department of State, June 2019)</li> <li>• <b>Writing Assignment Due on 4/14 (Friday)</b></li> </ul>
13	4/17 – 4/21	<b>Bullying &amp; Stalking</b> - Online vs offline - Suicide - Law enforcement response	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intimate Partner Violence and the Internet (Clevenger &amp; Gilliam, 2019)</li> <li>• Risk and Protective Factors for Cyberbullying Perpetration and Victimization (Wilson, Witherup, &amp; Payne, 2019)</li> </ul>
14	4/24 – 4/28	<b>Combating Cybercrime</b> - Jurisdiction - Police relations - Digital forensics	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cybercrime Legislation in the United States (Bossler, 2019)</li> <li>• Forensic Evidence and Cybercrime (Rodgers, 2019)</li> <li>• Police and Extralegal Structures to Combat Cybercrime (Holt, 2019)</li> </ul>
15	5/1 – 5/5	<b>Digital Forensics</b> - What is it - Prevalence - Best practices - Evidence	Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Forensics as a Forensic Science Discipline (SWGDE)</li> <li>• Collection of Digital and Multimedia Evidence Myths vs Facts (SWGDE)</li> </ul>

		challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Practices for Computer Forensics (SWGDE)</li> <li>• Digital and Multimedia Evidence (SWGDE, 2012)</li> </ul>
<b>16</b>	5/8 - 5/12	<b>Final Exam Review &amp; Final Exam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>5/8 (Monday)- Final Exam Review</i></li> <li>• <i>5/10 (Wednesday) – No Class</i></li> <li>• <i>5/18 (Thursday) @ 1:00 – 2:15 pm - Final Exam</i></li> </ul>