

CYB 410 **Secure Software** Syllabus

Term	Class No.	Section	Units	Days & Times	Room	Mode
1227 FA2022	410	N/A	3	Online	N/A	Online

**Enrollment Requirements**

Pre-requisites: (CS249 or CYB 404) and CS 305.

**Course Website** <http://bblearn.nau.edu>

**Instructor(s)**

Sareh Assiri

Email: sa2363@nau.edu.

Office Hours: TBD

**Catalog Text**

Covers a broad array of topics in software security and security engineering that concern software systems. Famous vulnerabilities will be examined (e.g., Heartbleed and Apple's "goto fail") with an emphasis on how such problems can be prevented, detected, and exploited.

**Course Purpose**

This course prepares students to understand and defend against software attacks through static and dynamic analysis of software systems. The course requires prior experience with software development and network security. This course explores cutting edge tools used in software system analysis and design, which develops critical skills needed in CYB 486C Capstone. By developing the skills to understand and analyze software systems, students also learn how software exploits can be discovered and can be guarded against in advanced software engineering practice. This is a required course in the B.S. in Cybersecurity curriculum and a pre-requisite for CYB 486C. This class also directly supports several program student outcomes through its subject matter, student learning, activities, and assessment (student outcomes 1, 2, and 6).

**Course Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

- LO1.** Describe major classes of and techniques for software system analysis (**knowledge**);
- LO2.** Select and apply static analysis techniques to software systems (**application**);
- LO3.** Select and apply dynamic analysis techniques to software systems (**application**);
- LO4.** Develop test code and testing frameworks for understanding and defending against software exploits (**synthesis**);

**Program Student Outcomes supported by this class**

This course directly supports the following program student outcomes in the CYB program assessment and improvement plan:

- SO1.** Analyze a complex computing problem and to apply principles of computing and other relevant disciplines to identify solutions.

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- SO2.** Design, implement, and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the program's discipline.
- SO6.** Apply security principles and practices to maintain operations in the presence of risks and threats.

**Assignments / Assessments of Course Student Learning Outcomes**

Learning outcomes are assessed through a variety of means: Assignments, forum threads, and a final exam assess a student's ability to describe and explain foundational concepts in software analysis (LO1) and specific analysis and testing techniques and concepts (LO2-LO4).

Individual and team homework assignments assess student ability to synthesize and analyze software systems, secure-design methods, and problem-solving. Key homework assignments will include: building and walking annotated CFG (LO2), using afl-fuzz and Deep State as part of a formal and stochastic testing approaches (LO3), and using a combination of techniques as part of a testing and security strategy for software (LO4).

Class participation is an integral part of the class.

Discussion forums will be a part of your participation grade. There will be a prompt each week, with a specific, rubric-driven requirement for participation. There will also be a separate general participation grade that is focused on participation in a professor-lead discussion that will introduce the week's content in an interactive (though asynchronous) fashion. The participation grade may also factor in (positively) personal interaction with the professor and other contributions.

**Discussion Board Forums**

Students are expected to post to each discussion board with appropriate responses. Proper etiquette is expected in discussion boards- this includes grammar, spelling, etc, and also includes treating your classmate and his/her ideas with respect. It is proper to give constructive ideas and criticisms, however it will not be acceptable to give improper or childish responses to another's ideas. A discussion rubric will be provided on the course website for grading. Each week, unless otherwise noted, you are expected to post your response to the question by Wednesday, 11:59pm (Flagstaff time) and you are expected to respond to two classmates by Sunday, 11:59pm (Flagstaff time).

**Grading System**

A weighted sum of assessment components is used to determine your final grade in the course:

- Discussion Boards: **10% (weekly prompts)** □ Participation in "Class Time Thread": **10% for participation in the weekly content thread**
- Homework assignments (3): **60%**
  - Final Exam: **20%**

Grades will be assigned using the weighted sum described above using this scale: **A** ≥ 90%, **B** ≥ 80%, **C** ≥ 70%, **D** ≥ 60%, **F** < 60%.

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There is no “curve”. Each student’s grade is based on their own outcomes assessments and not affected by the grades of other students. Extra credit opportunities may present themselves throughout the semester and will be announced during class meetings. Mistakes in grading to happen, and students are encouraged to discuss such concerns with the instructor during office hours.

**Readings and Materials**

Readings come from research papers and chapters freely available online:

**Week 1**

Anderson Chapter 1: <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~rja14/Papers/SEv2-c01.pdf> (Optional Readings): <http://heartbleed.com/>  
<https://blog.cryptographyengineering.com/2014/04/08/attack-of-the-week-openssl-heartbleed/>  
<https://www.imperialviolet.org/2014/02/22/applebug.html>  
[https://opensource.apple.com/source/Security/Security-55471/libsecurity\\_ssl/lib/sslKeyExchange.c](https://opensource.apple.com/source/Security/Security-55471/libsecurity_ssl/lib/sslKeyExchange.c)

**Week 2**

Anderson Chapter 3: <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~rja14/Papers/SEv2-c03.pdf> (Optional Readings):  
Lowe, "Breaking and Fixing the Needham-Schroeder Public-Key Protocol using FDR":  
<https://www.cs.utexas.edu/~shmat/courses/cs6431/lowe.pdf>

**Week 3**

Chess and McGraw, "Static Analysis for Security":  
<https://www.garymcgraw.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/bsi5-static.pdf>

**Week 4**

Bonus static analysis reading:  
<https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2010/2/69354-a-few-billion-lines-of-code-later/fulltext> (one of the best articles on real-world static analysis, with some amusing and deep insights)

**Week 5**

Discussion of python tools: <https://blog.codacy.com/review-of-python-static-analysis-tools-ff8e7e27f972> (2016) <https://blog.codacy.com/which-python-static-analysis-tools-should-i-use/> (2018)

**Week 6**

Holzmann (my boss at JPL, inventor of the SPIN Model Checker) on his static analysis tool:  
[http://www.spinroot.com/uno/uno\\_long.pdf](http://www.spinroot.com/uno/uno_long.pdf)

**Week 9**

Miller's famous fuzzing paper:  
[ftp://ftp.cs.wisc.edu/paradyn/technical\\_papers/fuzz.pdf](ftp://ftp.cs.wisc.edu/paradyn/technical_papers/fuzz.pdf)  
Lagorio, "Introduction to fuzzing using American Fuzzy Lop"  
[https://bart.disi.unige.it/zxgio/phd-course-2017/fuzzing\\_slides.pdf](https://bart.disi.unige.it/zxgio/phd-course-2017/fuzzing_slides.pdf) Gaynor,  
"Introduction to Fuzzing in Python with AFL"  
<https://alexgaynor.net/2015/apr/13/introduction-to-fuzzing-in-python-with-afl/>

**Week 10**

Regehr, How to Fuzz an ADT Implementation  
<https://blog.regehr.org/archives/896>  
Groce, Fuzzing an API with DeepState, Parts I and II:

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<https://blog.trailofbits.com/2019/01/22/fuzzing-an-api-with-deepstate-part-1/>

**Week 11**

Edward J. Schwartz, Thanassis Avgerinos, David Brumley, "All You Ever Wanted to Know About Dynamic Taint Analysis and Forward Symbolic Execution (but might have been afraid to ask)" <https://users.ece.cmu.edu/~aavgerin/papers/Oakland10.pdf> Go back and read "Coverage and its Discontents" <https://agroce.github.io/onwardessays14.pdf>

**Week 12**

Bug Hunter's Diary, Chapters 1 and 2 <http://index-of.es/Networking/Bug%20Hunter%20Diary.pdf>

**Week 13**

Bug Hunter's Diary, Chapter 7 <http://index-of.es/Networking/Bug%20Hunter%20Diary.pdf>

**Week 14**

SQL injection detection via dynamic analysis:  
<https://hiper.cis.udel.edu/lp/lib/exe/fetch.php/courses/issta08-wassermann-testgenweb.pdf>

**Week 15**

*(Optional Readings):*

Anderson chapter 17: <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~rja14/Papers/SEv2-c17.pdf> Heavy duty reading on state-of-the-art static analysis responses:  
<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/5fd4/7722da2f900b94cdaf313e8148658ceefef7.pdf>

Students will also need access to a computer with the following software tools:

- GCC suite; Python
- VirtualBox or VMWare to access Linux
- In place of VMWare, Docker will also work, in fact work better!

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**Class Outline and Tentative Schedule**

The course topics and a tentative schedule serve as an outline for the class:

	Dates	Topics	Reading	Assignment
<b>Week 1</b>	8/29-9/4	Intro to Software Security (CIA)	Anderson Ch 1	TH1 DB1
<b>Week 2</b>	9/5-9/11	Protocols	Anderson Ch 3	TH2 DB2 HW1, 1(3)
<b>Week 3</b>	9/12-9/18	Static analysis basics (part 1)	Chess & McGraw, Video	TH3 DB3 HW1, 2(3)
<b>Week 4</b>	9/19-9/25	Static analysis basics (part 2)	Bonus Static Analysis	TH4 DB4 HW1, 3(3)
<b>Week 5</b>	9/26-10/2	Python tools for static analysis	Codacy Review	TH5 DB5
<b>Week 6</b>	10/3-10/9	Building static analysis tools (part 1)	Holzmann, Video	TH6 DB6 HW2, 1(4)
<b>Week 7</b>	10/10-10/16	Building static analysis tools (part 2)		TH7 DB7 HW2, 2(4)
<b>Week 8</b>	10/17-10/23	Building static analysis tools (part 3)		TH8 DB8
<b>Week 9</b>	10/24-10/30	afl-fuzz	Miller, Lagorio, Gaynor, Video	TH9 DB9 HW2, 3(4) HW2, 4(4)
<b>Week 10</b>	10/31-11/6	DeepState symbolic unit testing	Regehr, Groce	TH10 DB10
<b>Week 11</b>	11/7-11/13	Hybrid testing approaches	Schwartz, Video	TH11 DB11
<b>Week 12</b>	11/14-11/20	Building exploits	BHD 1-2	TH12 DB12 HW3, 1(4)
<b>Week 13</b>	11/21-11/27	Common exploit classes	BHD 7	TH13 DB13 HW3, 2(4)
<b>Week 14</b>	11/28-12/4	SQL injection attacks	SQL	TH14 DB14 HW3, 3(4) HW3, 4(4)
<b>Week 15</b>	12/5-12/11	Advanced topics; next steps		TH15 DB15
<b>Week 16</b>	12/12-12/15	<b>Final exam</b>		<b>Final exam</b>

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TH= Class Time Thread      DB= Discussion Board      HW=Homework Assignment Due dates for quizzes and homework are posted on BBLearn. Please check BBLearn frequently for updates.

**Course Policies**

The following policies will apply to this course:

- Students who have not completed the prerequisite(s) for this course, or who do not participate in the first week of class may be administratively dropped from the course.
- The makeup and late work policies are as follows:
  - Homework: No make-ups or late submissions allowed.
  - Exams: Make-up exams will be given only in the case of a documented emergency supported by appropriate documentation **and** with approval from the instructor. Make-up exams may be considerably different than the original exam. Make-up exams must be taken within 3 business days of the original exam. Exams are proctored with the ProctorU system.
- Cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited. All academic integrity violations are treated seriously. All work you submit for grading must be your own. You are encouraged to discuss the intellectual aspects of assignments with other class participants. However, each student is responsible for formulating solutions independently and in their own words. **Academic integrity violations may result in penalties including, but not limited to, a zero on the assignment, a failing grade in the class, or expulsion from NAU.**
- Grades will be entered in BBLearn but your final grade will be calculated in Excel using the grading system described above and then entered in LOUIE. Your final course grade will **not** necessarily appear in BBLearn. Please check LOUIE for your final grade.
- The Academic Success Centers offer free tutoring and academic support to improve your study skills and review course material in a number of engineering and math courses. You can schedule an appointment by visiting [nau.edu/asc](http://nau.edu/asc), calling the Academic Success Center at 928-523-7391 or swinging by Dubois Center room 140.
- Email to the instructor and teaching assistants must be respectful and professional. Specifically, all emails should:
  - Contain a salutation, (for example, "Dear Dr. Palmer")
  - Contain a closing, (for example, "Best, Jane Doe")
  - Use complete sentences and correct grammar including correct usage of lowercase and uppercase letters. **Composing emails on a mobile device is not an excuse for poor writing.**
  - The body of your message should also be respectful and explain the full context of the query.
  - The subject should be prefixed with "CYB410" so that the message can be easily identified. The subject should also use lower case and upper case correctly.
  - Although email will typically be answered quickly, you should allow up to three (3) business days for a response.
  - If you have a question that would require a long response or you have a lot of questions, please come to office hours or schedule an appointment with the instructor.

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- Visiting the instructor(s) during office hours is encouraged! I am happy to talk about the class, careers, research, and topics related (even loosely) to this course.

**Syllabus Policy Statements:**

The information contained in this syllabus, other than this course's grade and attendance policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice.

Access to the Syllabus Policy Statements can be found at: <https://nau.edu/university-policylibrary/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/Syllabus-Policy-Statements.docx>



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REQUIREMENTS****APPENDIX A: SYLLABUS POLICY STATEMENTS****COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION**

The following statements in red are specific to NAU's response to the COVID-19 situation. The requirements outlined below are mandatory until further notice. They are based upon current public health conditions and guidance and may change as circumstances warrant or new information becomes available. Additional information about the University's response to COVID-19 is available from the **Jacks are Back!** web page located at <https://nau.edu/jacks-are-back/lumberjack-responsibilities>.

**FACE COVERING AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS**

Appropriate face masks or other suitable face coverings must be worn by all individuals when present in classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other dedicated educational spaces. To maximize the benefits of physical distancing as an important strategy to help reduce community transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, instructors may implement mandatory student seating arrangements or specific seat assignments. Instructors may remove students who do not cooperate with these requirements from the instructional space in the absence of an approved accommodation arranged through Disability Resources. Failing to comply with these requirements will constitute a violation of the university's *Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting* policy available at <https://nau.edu/university-policylibrary/disruptive-behavior>.

**USE NAUFLEX TO HELP MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

NAUFlex (available at <https://nau.edu/nauflex/student>) is designed to help all students to actively participate in their coursework during the required day and time of a course, even when they are not physically present in the classroom. This course design model allows students to be fully engaged with faculty and peers and receive the high-quality educational experience for which NAU is known.

**CLASS SESSION RECORDINGS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY USE ONLY**

Certain class sessions may be audio or video recorded to help reinforce live instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. These recordings are for the sole use of the instructor and students enrolled in the course. Recordings will be stored in approved, accessible repositories. By enrolling, students agree to have their image and classroom statements recorded for this purpose, to respect the privacy of their fellow students, and university-owned intellectual property (including, but not limited to, all course materials) by not sharing recordings from their courses. Questions regarding restrictions on the use of classroom audio or video recordings may be addressed to the appropriate academic unit administrator.

**SYLLABUS POLICY STATEMENTS****ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

NAU expects every student to firmly adhere to a strong ethical code of academic integrity in all their scholarly pursuits. The primary attributes of academic integrity are honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, and responsibility. As a student, you are expected to submit original work while giving proper credit to other people's ideas or contributions. Acting with academic integrity means completing your assignments independently while truthfully acknowledging all sources of information, or collaboration with others when appropriate. When you submit your work, you are implicitly declaring that the work is your own. Academic integrity is expected not only during formal coursework, but in all your relationships or interactions that are connected to the educational enterprise. All forms of academic deceit



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such as plagiarism, cheating, collusion, falsification or fabrication of results or records, permitting your work to be submitted by another, or inappropriately recycling your own work from one class to another, constitute academic misconduct that may result in serious disciplinary consequences. All students and faculty members are responsible for reporting suspected instances of academic misconduct. All students are encouraged to complete NAU's online academic integrity workshop available in the E-Learning Center and should review the full *Academic Integrity* policy available at <https://policy.nau.edu/policy/policy.aspx?num=100601>.

**COURSE TIME COMMITMENT**

Pursuant to Arizona Board of Regents guidance (ABOR Policy 2-224 – *Academic Credit*), for every unit of credit, a student should expect, on average, to do a minimum of three hours of work per week, including but not limited to class time, preparation, homework, and studying.

**DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

Membership in NAU's academic community entails a special obligation to maintain class environments that are conducive to learning, whether instruction is taking place in the classroom, a laboratory or clinical setting, during course-related fieldwork, or online. Students have the obligation to engage in the educational process in a manner that does not interfere with normal class activities or violate the rights of others. Instructors have the authority and responsibility to address disruptive behavior that interferes with student learning, which can include the involuntary withdrawal of a student from a course with a grade of "W". For additional information, see NAU's *Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting* policy at <https://nau.edu/university-policy-library/disruptive-behavior>.

**NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT**

NAU prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender, gender identity, race, color, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status. Due to potentially unethical consequences, certain consensual amorous or sexual relationships between faculty and students are also prohibited. The Equity and Access Office (EAO) responds to complaints regarding discrimination and harassment that fall under NAU's *Safe Working and Learning Environment* (SWALE) policy. EAO also assists with religious accommodations. For additional information about SWALE or to file a complaint, contact EAO located in Old Main (building 10), Room 113, PO Box 4083, Flagstaff, AZ 86011, or by phone at 928-523-3312 (TTY: 928-523-1006), fax at 928-523-9977, email at [equityandaccess@nau.edu](mailto:equityandaccess@nau.edu), or via the EAO website at <https://nau.edu/equity-and-access>.

**TITLE IX**

Title IX is the primary federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or gender in educational programs or activities. Sex discrimination for this purpose includes sexual harassment, sexual assault or relationship violence, and stalking (including cyber-stalking). Title IX requires that universities appoint a "Title IX Coordinator" to monitor the institution's compliance with this important civil rights law. NAU's Title IX Coordinator is Pamela Heinonen, Director of the Equity and Access Office located in Old Main (building 10), Room 113, PO Box 4083, Flagstaff, AZ 86011. The Title IX Coordinator is available to meet with any student to discuss any Title IX issue or concern. You may contact the Title IX Coordinator by phone at 928-523-3312 (TTY: 928-523-1006), by fax at 928-523-9977, or by email at [pamela.heinonen@nau.edu](mailto:pamela.heinonen@nau.edu). In furtherance of its Title IX obligations, NAU will promptly investigate and equitably resolve all reports of sex or gender-based discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct and will eliminate any hostile environment as defined by law. Additional important information about Title IX and related student resources, including how to request immediate help or confidential support following an act of sexual violence, is available at <http://nau.edu/equity-and-access/title-ix>.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

Professional disability specialists are available at Disability Resources to facilitate a range of academic support services and accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability, you can request assistance by contacting Disability Resources at 928-523-8773 (voice), 928-523-6906 (TTY), 928-523-8747 (fax), or [dr@nau.edu](mailto:dr@nau.edu) (e-mail). Once eligibility has been determined, students register with Disability Resources every

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semester to activate their approved accommodations. Although a student may request an accommodation at any time, it is best to initiate the application process at least four weeks before a student wishes to receive an accommodation. Students may begin the accommodation process by submitting a self-identification form online at <https://nau.edu/disability-resources/student-eligibility-process> or by contacting Disability Resources. The Director of Disability Resources, Jamie Axelrod, serves as NAU's Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and Section 504 Compliance Officer. He can be reached at [jamie.axelrod@nau.edu](mailto:jamie.axelrod@nau.edu).

**RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH**

Students who engage in research at NAU must receive appropriate Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training. This instruction is designed to help ensure proper awareness and application of well-established professional norms and ethical principles related to the performance of all scientific research activities. More information regarding RCR training is available at <https://nau.edu/research/compliance/research-integrity>.

**MISCONDUCT IN RESEARCH**

As noted, NAU expects every student to firmly adhere to a strong code of academic integrity in all their scholarly pursuits. This includes avoiding fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism when conducting research or reporting research results. Engaging in research misconduct may result in serious disciplinary consequences. Students must also report any suspected or actual instances of research misconduct of which they become aware. Allegations of research misconduct should be reported to your instructor or the University's Research Integrity Officer, Dr. David Faguy, who can be reached at [david.faguy@nau.edu](mailto:david.faguy@nau.edu) or 928-523-6117. More information about misconduct in research is available at <https://nau.edu/university-policy-library/misconduct-in-research>.

**SENSITIVE COURSE MATERIALS**

University education aims to expand student understanding and awareness. Thus, it necessarily involves engagement with a wide range of information, ideas, and creative representations. In their college studies, students can expect to encounter and to critically appraise materials that may differ from and perhaps challenge familiar understandings, ideas, and beliefs. Students are encouraged to discuss these matters with faculty. *Last revised August,*

2022

Syllabus Updated 8/25/2022