ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

ITE 520 | Cybersecurity Foundations

Spring 2026

Instructor Contact Information

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Office Location: Waters Hall, S103D
Office Hours
TW 9:00AM -2:00PM

Course Communication and Response Times

It is preferred that students contact the instructor via email. The instructor will respond within 24 hours. To meet with the instructor, please schedule an appointment first at https://baoqiangyan.youcanbook.me/. Then, either click this Zoom link https://athens.zoom.us/my/baoqiangy or visit S103D, Waters Hall, for an in-person meeting.

Additional Skills Needed

Basic skills of using a Linux terminal.

Course Description

This course provides a broad overview of cybersecurity, including how computers and networks are attacked, how the attackers benefit, and how to mitigate the attack. The terminology,

approaches and underlying technologies are a main focus of this course. Students will gain a depth knowledge of principles of computer security, standards that have been put in place, the approaches to meet specific computer security requirements and case studies of real- world examples will be researched.

Access Athens

This course participates in the Access Athens program to provide students with instant digital access to required textbooks and course materials at a reduced cost.

You are automatically enrolled, and the charge will appear on your student account. Course materials are available directly in Canvas on the first day of class and can be downloaded for offline access on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Students who prefer to purchase materials elsewhere may opt out by following the instructions in the email from iasupport@ecampus.com. Some courses may also offer optional print copies through the Campus Bookstore.

Please note that not all course materials are included in the Access Athens program or available through eCampus. Some additional resources or materials may need to be purchased separately.

Required Text(s) and Other Materials

Computer Security Principles and Practice [Rental Edition]
ISBN: 9780138091675
Authors: Stallings, William
Publisher: Pearson Rental Program
Edition: 5
Media Type: Textbook
Requirement: Required

Course Learning Objectives

- Compare and contrast various cryptographic tools.

- Discuss general means of user athentication and major access control policies.

- Understand the security requirements in database, cloud, software, OS and IoT.

- Gain practical experience of posing threats to a system, how to prevent and detect them.

- Explain the general procedure of risk assessment and management.

- Manage to use different security protocols for secure network communication.

- Understand how wirelss network can be secured.

Program Learning Outcomes

[Information Technology Program Learning Outcomes](#)

Evaluation and Grading Scale

Item	Weight
Labs	33%
Quizzes	33%
Exams (lowest score dropped)	34%
Total	100%

Grading Scale	
A	90.0-100.0%
B	80.0-89.9%
C	70.0-79.9%
D	60.0-69.9%
F	Below 60.0%

This course includes extensive reading, hands-on labs, quizzes, and four exams. You have a new lesson to work on every three to four days on average, including weekends.

All quizzes and exams are opened at the beginning of the class. They are composed of T/F and multiple-choice questions. You have two attempts available for each quiz/exam, and the higher score will be recorded. There is no time limit for each attempt, but please note the due dates — late penalties apply. The lowest score of all 4 exams will be dropped.

Labs will be posted gradually with detailed instructions and possibly a demo video. You need to record your screen while doing the labs and submit the recorded video in the corresponding discussion thread on Canvas. You can watch and comment on each other's submissions. Please check the rubrics for the video submissions to understand what is expected. If you submit your recorded video at least 24 hours earlier than the due date, you get extra points unless your submission is full of errors. You will get feedback on where you have done wrong. You can find some free video recording software online. One of them is OBS Studio. You can also try recording with Zoom.

Your quiz/exam scores will be posted on Canvas automatically after you finish them. Your overall grade for this course will be calculated according to the weights specified in the first table above. More specifically, the following formula is used:

Average lab score * 33% + Average quiz score * 33% + Average exam score * 34%

Late Assignment Policy

It is your responsibility to pay attention to the due dates. If, for any reason, you require additional time for an assessment, please notify me via email with a valid reason at least 3 days in advance without penalty. Otherwise, late assignments will be accepted with a 25% deduction per day, up to 3 days late.

Participation Policy

This is an online course with scheduled assignments and due dates. To actively participate in this course, students are expected to:

- Log in to Canvas regularly
- Complete book readings and follow the posted module schedule
- Submit labs, quizzes, and take exams by their due dates

- Monitor announcements and course messages, and communicate professionally when questions arise

Waiting until the due date to begin work is strongly discouraged, as technical issues and time constraints may prevent successful completion. Late work and missed activities are handled according to the late policy stated in this syllabus. Extensions are not guaranteed and are typically considered only for documented or university-approved circumstances.

Attendance Policy

Since this is a 100% online course, no formal roll call will be taken. For Financial Aid purposes, submission of the first assessment in the course will be used to indicate that you are attending the class. Your last submission of an assessment will be used to report your last attendance.

AI Policy

You are permitted to use generative AI tools in this course as a resource for learning, provided you use them responsibly and transparently. You must cite or acknowledge AI contributions, and your work should reflect your own critical thinking and understanding. Failure to follow this policy will be handled according to the procedures outlined in the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

Academic Misconduct

In support of the University's mission, Athens State University strives to prepare students for leadership roles and encourages students to be responsible citizens, to have integrity, and to show consideration for others. Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in sanctions or disciplinary actions, including formal reprimand, loss of privileges, suspension, or expulsion. Policies relating to academic misconduct can be found in the [Student Code of Conduct and Discipline policy](#).

Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another person's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Once verified, violations of academic honesty will result in a failing grade in the course and be reported to the school. Watching and following other people's videos when you get stuck in the labs is NOT viewed as plagiarism in this class.

Remote Proctoring

This Athens State University course does not require the use of remote proctoring software. Exams and assessments will be administered without third-party monitoring tools, and students will receive specific instructions from the instructor regarding exam procedures and expectations.

Student Support Services

Academic Support Services

The above link contains information related to a variety of Academic Support Services to help increase your academic success while at Athens State University. These areas include: Kares Library, Transfer / Academic Advising, University Labs, Writing Center, Help Desk, and Accessibility Services. For more information, select this link: Academic Support Units.

Tech Support

The Help Desk provides technical support to students, faculty, and staff. This support includes accessing accounts and troubleshooting technical issues with the learning management system. This link provides the system requirements for online courses at Athens State.

Support Hours: Monday – Friday: 8 am – 4:30 pm, Sunday: 12 pm – 6 pm (Virtual Support Only)

Phone: 256-216-6698, Email: helpdesk@athens.edu

Accessibility Statement

Athens State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. It is the policy of the University that a good-faith effort shall be made to meet the accommodation requests of persons with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability that might require special materials, services, or assistance, you should notify your instructor as soon as possible and arrange a meeting with the Accessibility Services Specialist. Please contact Accessibility Services Specialist: (phone) 256-233-8143: (email) accessibility.services@athens.edu for an appointment. For more information, select this link: Accessibility Services.

Kares Library and Writing Center

Kares Library

The Kares Library provides assistance in-person and online. Specific to this course, the Library Resources link in Canvas (located in the left Navigation menu) allows you to access databases that contain scholarly articles, peer-reviewed journals, eBooks, and more. To use these resources off-campus, you'll be prompted to enter your Athens State student email and to create a library password. The Library Resources link also provides ways to contact Kares Library's expert librarians.

Other ways to contact the library:
Email: refdesk@athens.edu
Phone: 256-216-6650
Website: libguides.athens.edu/home

Writing Center

The purpose of the Writing Center at Athens State University is to support writers who want to improve their writing, critical thinking, and communication skills. Peer consultants help writers in all disciplines and at all skill levels—beginner to advanced. You may email us at writing.center@athens.edu, call 256-216-6665, or click here to schedule an appointment.

Course Schedule

Please refer to the graded assignments for the course schedule. Students are supposed to read the eBook first before doing each assignment. The following is the course outline:

1. Overview
2. Cryptographic Tools
3. User Authentication
4. Access Control
5. Database and Data Center Security
6. Malicious Software
7. Denial-of-Service Attacks
8. Intrusion Detection
9. Firewalls and Intrusion Prevention Systems

10. Buffer Overflow

11. Software Security

12. Operating Systems Security

13. Cloud and IoT Security

14. IT Security Management and Risk Assessment

15. IT Security Controls, plans, and Procedures

16. Physical and Infrastructure Security

17. Human Resources Security

18. Security Auditing

19. Legal and Ethical Aspects

20. Symmetric Encryption and Message Confidentiality

21. Public-Key Cryptography and Message Authentication

22. Internet Security Protocols and Standards

23. Internet Authentication Applications

24. Wireless Network Security

Graded Assignments

Due Date	Assignment	Type	Points
	Course Q&A	Discussion	0
1/15/26	Quiz1	Quiz	150
1/19/26	Project 1 - Cryptool2	Discussion	150
1/19/26	Quiz2	Quiz	150
1/22/26	Quiz3	Quiz	150
1/26/26	Quiz4	Quiz	150
1/29/26	Quiz5	Quiz	150

Due Date	Assignment	Type	Points
2/2/26	Quiz6	Quiz	150
2/6/26	Quiz7	Quiz	150
2/9/26	Quiz8	Quiz	150
2/13/26	Exam 1	Quiz	450
2/17/26	Quiz9	Quiz	150
2/21/26	Quiz10	Quiz	150
2/24/26	Quiz11	Quiz	150
2/28/26	Quiz12	Quiz	150
3/3/26	Quiz13	Quiz	150
3/7/26	Quiz14	Quiz	150
3/10/26	Quiz15	Quiz	150
3/14/26	Quiz16	Quiz	150
3/18/26	Exam 2	Quiz	450
3/22/26	Quiz17	Quiz	150
4/1/26	Quiz18	Quiz	150
4/4/26	Quiz19	Quiz	150
4/8/26	Quiz20	Quiz	150
4/11/26	Quiz21	Quiz	150
4/15/26	Quiz22	Quiz	150
4/18/26	Quiz23	Quiz	150
4/21/26	Quiz24	Quiz	150
4/25/26	Exam 3	Quiz	450

Due Date	Assignment	Type	Points
5/1/26	Final Exam	Quiz	450