



ISP 388L Professional Experience and Project

Instructor: Dr. K. Suzanne Barber
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Office Hours: MW 9am to 10am in EER 7.804 and Zoom at <https://utexas.zoom.us/j/5844308231>

Textbook, Readings & Resource List

No Textbook is required. Readings will be provided the first day of class and posted to Canvas.

Course Aims and Objectives

This course aims to give students an opportunity and forum to leverage and synthesize the education received in the MS degree program in Information Security and Privacy along with professional experiences to explore new topics of interests in the context of a capstone project.

This course will assist students in developing and communicating expertise related to a specific problem or issue of interest to practitioners and professionals in the field of information security and privacy. Specifically, students will produce a report and presentation that both summarizes the aspects of a problem or issue, and provides recommendations for professionals and organizations involved. Students will learn how to translate knowledge into persuasive, concise, and meaningful arguments.

Specific Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Conceptualize and design a professional experience project that will provide insight into a contemporary problem or issue in the domain of information security and privacy.
- Gather information from sources to facilitate analysis of a contemporary problem or issue.
- Synthesize findings to produce meaningful results to a specific professional or applied audience.
- Produce a professional report and presentation to effectively summarize a contemporary problem or issue and provide recommendations that are relevant to professionals and practitioners.

Grading

This course is assessed on a Credit/No Credit standard. To receive credit for this course students must complete all assignments, on time, at a satisfactory level. If an assignment is assessed as unsatisfactory, the student must revise the work until it meets the required standards.

All assessment and feedback will be posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly to keep track of your assessments and promptly alert the instructor if any you notice any errors.

Assignments

Capstone Project Proposal

Students will complete a brief (maximum 2 double-spaced pages) proposal introducing the planned project for the semester. The proposal should communicate (a) problem or issue being addressed, (b) the relevant audience, and (c) the potential value or relevance of related solutions, anticipated findings and recommendations.

Article Annotations

Students will identify, gather, and summarize at least 5 relevant articles related to their project. Guidance regarding how to find articles and how to structure summaries will be provided.

Peer Reviews

Each student will read the rough draft of two other students, and provide detailed feedback. A review guide will be provided.

Final Papers

Each student will complete a final report aimed at a specific professional or practitioner audience. The paper will include (a) an executive summary, (b) an analysis of key issues, (c) recommendations for practitioners and/or organizations, and (d) a discussion of future directions. A paper template and rubric will be provided.

Final Presentation

Each student will complete and present a final 5-7 minute presentation summarizing their MSISP capstone project. The MSISP final presentation summarize the MSISP capstone paper highlighting (a) motivation of the project, (b) findings, (c) recommendations. The audience should be convinced the MSISP capstone project was thoughtfully considered and well-researched (in other words, not just your opinion). A rubric for the presentation will be provided.

Course Communication

This course will employ Canvas—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://canvas.utexas.edu/> —to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, and to submit and accept assignments. You can find support in using Canvas at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

Tentative Course Schedule

The meeting format for this capstone course aims to combine lectures, group discussions and individual discussions with the instructor. Dr. Barber will be available to meet with students individually or together during the “Open Session Discussion” class meetings. We will discuss the logistics of these meetings during our first class meeting. Please plan to attend formal lectures and class discussions on January 13th, February 10th, March 3rd and March 31st. Please also plan to attend two days of class presentations on April 21st and April 22nd.

Class Meeting Date	Agenda	Due Dates
Class Weekend 1		
January 13	Capstone Projects: The Process and the Deliverables	
January 14	Open Session Discussion	Capstone Project Proposals due Jan 27th
Class Weekend 2		
February 10	Capstone Projects: The White Paper	
February 11	Open Session Discussion	Article Annotations due Feb 18th
Class Weekend 3		
March 3	Capstone Projects: The Presentation	
March 4	Open Session Discussion	Rough Draft due March 12th
Class Weekend 4		
March 31	Capstone Project: Expert Blog and Podcasts	Peer Reviews due March 30th
April 1	Open Session Discussion	
Class Weekend 5		
April 21	Capstone presentations	Capstone white papers due April 20 th Capstone presentations due April 20 th
April 22	Capstone presentations	

UT Policies and Resources

Student Rights and Responsibilities

- You have a right to a learning environment that supports mental and physical wellness.
- You have a right to respect.
- You have a right to be assessed and graded fairly.
- You have a right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- You have a right to privacy and confidentiality.
- You have a right to meaningful and equal participation, to self-organize groups to improve your learning environment.
- You have a right to learn in an environment that is welcoming to all people. No student shall be isolated, excluded or diminished in any way.

With these rights come responsibilities:

- You are responsible for taking care of yourself, managing your time, and communicating with the teaching team and others if things start to feel out of control or overwhelming.
- You are responsible for acting in a way that is worthy of respect and always respectful of others.
- Your experience with this course is directly related to the quality of the energy that you bring to it, and your energy shapes the quality of your peers' experiences.
- You are responsible for creating an inclusive environment and for speaking up when someone is excluded.
- You are responsible for holding yourself accountable to these standards, holding each other to these standards, and holding the teaching team accountable as well.

Grading

Official grade point averages are calculated by the registrar and appear on the student's academic record maintained by the registrar.

Academic Integrity

Each student is expected to abide by the UT Honor Code: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." If you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in a previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise, you might be in violation of the university's academic integrity policies.

Collaboration is allowed for in-class assignments, but each person must submit their own assignment.

Please see [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#).

Students with Disabilities

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) (SSD). Here are some [examples](#) of the types of diagnoses and conditions that can be considered disabilities: [Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders \(ADHD\)](#), [Autism](#), [Blind & Visually Impaired](#), [Brain Injuries](#), [Deaf & Hard of Hearing](#), [Learning Disabilities](#), [Medical Disabilities](#), [Physical Disabilities](#), [Psychological Disabilities](#) and [Temporary Disabilities](#). Please refer to SSD's [website](#) for contact and more information. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

Mental Health Counseling

College can be stressful and sometimes we need a little help. Luckily, we have a wealth of resources and dedicated people ready to assist you, and treatment does work. The [Counseling and Mental Health Center](#) provides

counseling, psychiatric, consultation, and prevention services that facilitate academic and life goals and enhance personal growth and well-being. Counselors are available Monday-Friday 8am-5pm by phone (512-471-3515) and Zoom.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis (e.g. depression or anxiety), please call the Mental Health Center Crisis line at 512-471-CALL(2255). Call even if you aren't sure you're in a full-blown crisis, but sincerely need help. Staff are there to help you.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>.

Official Correspondence

UT Austin [considers e-mail as an official mode of university correspondence](#). You are responsible for following course-related information on the course Canvas site.

Absence for Military Service

In accordance with [section 51.9111 of the Texas Education code](#) and [University policies on class attendance](#), a student is excused from attending classes or engaging in other required activities, including exams, if he or she is called to active military service of a reasonably brief duration. The maximum time for which the student may be excused has been defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as "no more than 25 percent of the total number of class meetings or the contact hour equivalent (not including the final examination period) for the specific course or courses in which the student is currently enrolled at the beginning of the period of active military service." The student will be allowed a reasonable time after the absence to complete assignments and take exams.

Sanger Learning Center

The Sanger Learning Center offers a number of services to improve your academic performance. All students are welcome to join their classes and workshops and make appointments for their private learning specialists, peer academic coaches, and tutors. For more information, see the [Sanger Web site](#) or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

Title IX Reporting

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms where all students, faculty, and staff can learn, work, and thrive. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies.

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator at UT Austin. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more info about

reporting options and resources, visit [the campus resources page](#) or e-mail the Title IX Office at titleix@austin.utexas.edu.

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at <https://it.utexas.edu>