

**IT 880a INFORMATION SECURITY
WHAT LAWYERS AND POLICY MAKERS NEED TO KNOW
SYLLABUS
FALL 2009**

Welcome to the Information Security Seminar. We will explore this ever-changing area of technology and law through discussions, hypothetical's, student presentations and perhaps a guest lecture or two. Your participation is essential. This two-credit hour class meets for 4 eight-hour sessions. To receive credit for this seminar, you will need to (1) read all required materials (2) participate in class discussions and (3) complete an original position paper

You will be expected to have read the required reading prior to attending class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar considers the technology behind information security systems, the evolution of hacking and how these elements drive our national policies and evolve our legal jurisprudence. We will begin with a survey of computer security fundamentals, learning the foundation elements necessary for all information security systems. Next we will discuss risk assessment and management the core framework for developing secure systems. With this background we evaluate the current and past US information security policies for effectiveness and cost, such as prior US cryptology export controls and the current FFIEC guidelines for authentication.

Next we explore the changing legal landscape with respect to corporate liability for breaches of personally identifiable information, the legal risks and responsibilities of information security practitioners and how social media security systems are potentially failing.

Time permitting we will evaluate additional security policies and their effects for example the newly promulgated Payment Card Industry (PCI) standards and discuss whether government or the private sector should regulate such standards.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required textbook for this class but there are required readings. Additional materials may be distributed in class or via email.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Required (Please read prior to class start)

The Psychology of Security:

1. <http://www.schneier.com/crypto-gram-0702a.html#2>
2. The Long Tail of Risk (provided)

The problems (read before class start)

- **Brazen Botnet uses Twitter Comm Channel**
<http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/995>
- **Monster.com is Latest Data Breach Victim**
<http://netsecurity.about.com/b/2009/01/27/monstercom-is-latest-data-breach-victim.htm>
- **In Legal First, Data-Breach Suit Targets Auditor**
http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2009/06/auditor_sued/

Recommended texts (not required)

These books are recommended for individuals who wish to explore the concepts introduced in class in more detail.

Technical:

Introduction to Computer Security, Matt Bishop ISBN: 0321247442
Available from amazon.com

Historical:

Tangled Web – Tales of Digital Crime from the Shadows of Cyberspace, Richard Power. Available from amazon.com

GRADES AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades will be based on class participation (60%) and a final position paper (40%).

POSITION PAPERS -- Each student must complete an original, well-researched, position paper that evaluates the information security issue proposed using the techniques learned in class, as well as supporting arguments from economic, policy, risk and feasibility perspectives. The ideal paper will offer a suggested solution or policy guidance and justify that solution using analytic methods and citing theories or studies to support the position. The paper must be submitted in memo format, i.e., fully edited, with correct grammar and spelling, proper citations, and supporting materials (statutes, articles, appendices, etc.) if appropriate. The suggested length of the paper is between 5 and 10 pages (ten pages maximum including footnotes) and it must include a clear recommendation, executive summary and supporting text. Remember, brevity is appreciated and quality is more important than quantity.

- Papers will be evaluated on the basis of clarity of analysis, persuasiveness of argument, depth of research, originality of thought, readability, and understanding of the course materials.
- Position Papers are due on or before **November 24, 2009**.