

Cybersecurity¹ (LAW 5620/INFSCI 2625)

W 12:00 – 2:50pm (LAW G18)

Professor David Thaw

Office: LAW 303

Email: dbthaw@pitt.edu (you must include "law5620" or "infsci2625" in the email subject to ensure it gets to me!)²

Spring 2017 Syllabus

Office Hours: W 3:00pm – 4:00pm, and by appointment

Required Texts/Materials:

The principal reading material will be in the forthcoming textbook, *Cybersecurity: An Interdisciplinary Approach* authored by Derek Bambauer, Justin (Gus) Hurwitz, and David Thaw (your instructor³).

The textbook is available for reading (and commenting!) as a Microsoft Word document in all OneDrive-compatible versions of Microsoft Office at the following URL:

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AunhrIVGZ5NyhgrW5rcaB6Di652s>

Assignments/Grading:

Students will be graded on a combination of three factors:

- **(50%) Final (Group) Presentation:** There is a final presentation which will comprise an exercise emulating testimony before a U.S. Congressional Committee on issues related to cybersecurity. More details will be provided in class.
- **(30%) “Response Papers”:** Students will write a series of (very short) response papers to engage the reading materials for each week. Each paper should briefly address three questions: 1) something you found confusing in the reading; 2) something you wish to know more about/you felt was under-addressed; and 3) something you find analytically interesting and offer your thoughts on. Each paper should be short, as discussed in class, and will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. (I reserve the right to assign “Honors” grades to extremely well-written papers in exceptional cases.)
- **(20%) Class Participation:** All students are expected to be prepared for class discussion. Being well-prepared does not mean you have memorized the material. Rather, it means you have read (as described in the introductory email) in a way which will enable you to actively engage in – and therefore learn from – the class discussion.

¹ The official registered title of this course is “Cybersecurity and Privacy Regulation.” For pedagogical reasons which will become apparent over the course of the semester, I will refer to it simply as “Cybersecurity.”

² Spam filters **ARE** a real problem. Do not assume you are “safe” from spam filters. I reserve the right to treat all emails failing to conform to this standard as “not having been sent.” (Emails from students failing to reach me due to spam filters ***has*** been a problem at every institution at which I have taught.)

³ The textbook is not currently being offered for commercial sale, is being freely distributed, and the authors have no future plans to limit free distribution of the textbook. The authors receive no compensation for distribution or use of the textbook.

COURSE POLICIES

General policies are posted on my website (<http://www.davidthaw.com>). **Students are responsible for all course policies regardless of whether they are discussed verbally during class time.** Some are reiterated here for emphasis.

Regular access to a computer and the public Internet is a course requirement. *Any student who feels they may not have access to adequate computer and/or Internet facilities **MUST** consult with the Professor **no later than** the second class meeting.*

Email Policy/Contacting Me:

When emailing me regarding a class matter, you must include the course number (e.g., "law1234" or "infsci1234", without the quotes).

- I generally try to respond to emails within 48 hours (subject to availability)
- *please plan accordingly if you anticipate a need for an "urgent" response*
- If you cannot reach me in an emergency, contact Office of the Dean of Students in the Law School or the Office of Student Services in the School of Information Sciences, as appropriate.
- Students are responsible for keeping up with course information distributed via email

Laptops/Other Devices:

I allow laptops and other electronic devices in class when I teach, subject to the limitations on distraction noted on my posted "Class Policies."

Students with Disabilities:

Students who have disabilities who are requesting accommodation, must (per University policy) contact the University Office of Disability Resources and Services (<http://www.drs.pitt.edu>, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890) and School of Law students should also contact the Associate Dean of Students in the Law School (Dean Kevin Deasy; deasy@pitt.edu). Please do so as early as possible in the semester.

In-Class Recording Policy:

Class sessions will not be (and are not to be) recorded, in order to promote student comfort with the free expression and exchange of (sometimes-controversial) ideas. Be aware, however, that some classes may be videoconferenced with a similar class concurrently taught by Professor Hurwitz at the University of Nebraska, and may occasionally include Professor Bambauer (our third textbook author).

COURSE READINGS

Course readings are listed in the "navigation section" (Table of Contents) of the draft textbook, by week number.