



**Course** MIS 6333 | Digital Forensics and Incident Management  
**Instructor** Dr. Mohammad Anwar Islam  
**Term** Spring 2026  
**Meetings** Wed 7:00 pm – 9:45 pm, Room: ECSS 2.312

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**Instructor:** Dr. Mohammad Anwar Islam  
**Email:** [mohammad.islam@utdallas.edu](mailto:mohammad.islam@utdallas.edu)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment via Teams  
**Teaching Assistant:** Zhen Yan  
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**Office Hours:** Office: Thursday, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

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**Prerequisites:** MIS 6330

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### Course Description

To provide the student with an in-depth knowledge of Digital Forensics and Incident Management. This course discusses methods and techniques for responding to security incidents and breaches, and provides in-depth coverage of digital forensics of client devices, databases, web servers, application servers, and computer networks. The use and application of data analysis techniques in support of forensic efforts and the chain of evidence are also discussed. The course provides students with opportunities to work hands-on utilizing a digital forensics lab.

### Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Summarize the basic principles of computer forensics.
- Summarize important laws regarding computer forensics.
- Describe various computer crimes and how they are investigated.
- Describe digital forensic methodologies and evidence handling techniques.
- Outline the proper approach to collecting, seizing, and protecting evidence.
- Explain techniques for hiding and scrambling information as well as how data is recovered.
- Summarize various types of digital forensics.
- Describe contingency planning and incident response.
- Explain how to perform network packet analysis.
- Identify technical and legal trends in digital forensics.

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### Texts & Resources

Chuck Easttom. *Digital Forensics, Investigation, and Response*, Fourth Edition, Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett, 2022 (ISBN 9781284226065).

You must buy the Textbook and the Cloud Lab from Jones Bartlett Learning (for a 15% discount):

<https://info2.jblearning.com/easttom4e-fdoc-lti>

**eBook Bundle** →

ISBN: 978-1-284-24450-2

Navigate *eBook and Cloud Lab Access*

**Cloud Labs:** Jones and Bartlett Learning

**Digital Forensics Certification Bodies and Certifications**

Organization/Certification(s)	URL
AccessData AccessData Certified Examiner (ACE)	<a href="https://www.accessdata.com">https://www.accessdata.com</a>
EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), Certified Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI), more	<a href="https://www.eccouncil.org/programs/">https://www.eccouncil.org/programs/</a>
International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS) Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE)	<a href="https://www.iacis.com/certification/">https://www.iacis.com/certification/</a>
OpenText Certification (formerly Guidance Software) EnCase Certified Examiner (EnCE)	<a href="https://www.opentext.com/products-and-solutions/services/training-and-learning-services/opentext-certification">https://www.opentext.com/products-and-solutions/services/training-and-learning-services/opentext-certification</a>
SANS Institute Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC) GIAC Certified Forensic Examiner (GCFE), GIAC Certified Forensic Analyst (GCFA), GIAC Reverse Engineering Malware (GREM), more	<a href="https://www.giac.org/certifications/focus-areas">https://www.giac.org/certifications/focus-areas</a>

**Professional Associations**

Organization	URL
American Academy of Forensic Sciences This organization provides an understanding of advanced science and its application to the legal system.	<a href="http://www.aafs.org">http://www.aafs.org</a>
Association of Digital Forensics, Security and Law (ADFSL) This organization focuses on the academics and research of digital forensics, security, and law.	<a href="http://www.adfsl.org/">http://www.adfsl.org/</a>
High Tech Crime Investigation Association (HTCIA) This organization facilitates the exchange of data, information, experience, ideas, and knowledge about methods, processes, and techniques relating to the prevention and investigation of high tech crimes.	<a href="https://htcia.org/">https://htcia.org/</a>

**Technical Tools and Resources**

- Students must have a computer for this course and bring their PC to every class.
- Students must have access to Microsoft Office applications – Excel, Word, PowerPoint – for classroom activities.
- Students will need to access and sometimes download other software on a trial basis for this course.
- Students are responsible for acquiring or using appropriate and usable technology equipment. If your personally owned devices and equipment are not compatible with the course's needs, especially for assignments, students should use the computers available in the JSOM computer labs.
- In addition to a confident computer and Internet literacy level, a minimum knowledge of broader information technology and systems must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the essential technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

### Class Preparation and Materials

- The textbook materials will be covered in the class lectures and assignments. You must read the textbook chapters before attending the class.
  - The supplement lecture presentations will be posted in the eLearning under the Lectures folder.
  - The additional materials will be posted in the eLearning for students.
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### Lecture Guidelines

- Students must be attentive, engaged, and participative during lectures.
  - During the class, students **must not chat** with each other. However, students can raise their hands to ask any questions or for clarification.
  - Cell phone use is **NOT** allowed during class.
  - Students must **NOT** engage in unnecessary and irrelevant web surfing during class.
  - Students are expected to bring a personal computer to class.
  - Electronic devices will not be allowed to distract the student, other students, or the instructor. The instructor may require a student to turn off an electronic device if it distracts others.
  - Lectures will start on time and, most often, will use the entire class time duration. It is common courtesy and professional protocol to be seated and prepared to begin when the lecture starts and to stay in the classroom until the lecture is completed. If circumstances require you to arrive late or leave early, please notify the instructor via *email at least 15 minutes prior to class time* as a courtesy.
  - Students are responsible for all materials covered in a lecture, irrespective of their attendance. Neither the TA nor the instructor is required to cover lecture content one-on-one for students missing lectures. It is recommended that students use a "buddy system" to share lecture notes.
  - Some lectures or parts of lectures may be video-recorded synchronously and/or asynchronously. Students are responsible for learning from the video content as it is covered in class.
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### Course Assessment

The students will be assessed through the following types of assignments:

- Attendance and participation
- Weekly Labs
- Term Projects (grades associated with each phase and then the final project).
- Exam I and Exam II – This course has no comprehensive exams.

**No homework** is required for this course.

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### Attendance and Participation Guidance (5% of final grade calculation)

- Students are required to attend all lectures in person.
  - Attendance will be taken in every class (at the **beginning and end**). If you are late by more than 15 minutes, you will get zero points for the attendance.
  - **Participation:** *At the end of the class, each student will respond to a prompt with 50 words about the major concepts, principles, and methodologies discussed in class and how they can be applied in real-life situations.*
  - Regular class participation is expected from every student. Students who fail to participate in class are inviting scholastic difficulties. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to the university requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these university requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
  - Attendance and participation are an integral part of the final grade calculation.
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### Course Evaluation

- Course evaluation at the end of the semester is optional but highly encouraged.
  - Submitting a course evaluation will result in a **1% (10 points) bonus, applied to the final grade.**
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### Exam Guidelines (70% of final grade calculation)

- Exams will be administered via the **UTD Testing Center** at Synergy Park. Please register for both exams after the first session.
- Exams are scheduled well in advance. Missing an exam results in a score of zero.
- Make-up exams will be given only for justified situations; discuss it with the instructor **BEFORE** the scheduled exam. If you contact the instructor after the exam, it will be considered a missed exam, and no credit will be given for missed exams.
- The exams may include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank. The final exam is **NOT** comprehensive.
- Both exams for closed books and notes, but **one letter-sized A4 (8.5 x 11) sheet is allowed**.
- Electronic devices are not allowed.

### Grading

This course will feature a mix of activities and written assignments that may be in class or on campus. Homework will include readings from the textbook and activities that typically require students to complete a task (labs). The instructor will provide detailed instructions and the grading criteria for each assignment. Please refer to the course schedule for specific deadlines. Please be advised that if you have a question or issue with your assignment grade, your entire assignment is subject to re-grading, which could lead to the addition or deduction of points.

#### Grading Scheme

Grade Component	Percentage
Attendance and Participation	5%
Labs	10%
Term Project	15%
Exam 1	35%
Exam 2	35%
Total	100%

#### Scoring

Final % Total	Letter Grade
$\geq 93.3$	A
$\geq 90.0$ and $< 93.3$	A -
$\geq 87.7$ and $< 90.0$	B+
$\geq 83.3$ and $< 87.7$	B
$\geq 80.0$ and $< 83.3$	B-
$\geq 77.7$ and $< 80.0$	C+
$\geq 73.3$ and $< 77.7$	C
$< 73.3$	F

*The assignments and calculated grade weights are subject to change at the discretion of the professor*

### Miscellaneous Course and Instructor Policies

The following guidelines and policies describe how the course will be managed. Situations and issues not covered will be resolved at the instructor's discretion. Changes to the guidelines will be posted in syllabus updates on eLearning. Students will be notified via eLearning announcements of any changes to the syllabus.

- **Special note:** Employ the following assignment file naming conventions to maximize clarity (attachment files not named in the required manner may not be graded):

Surname Course First few words of the assignment title - Filename Example: *Smith MIS 6333-501 Essay*

All course-related emails must include **MIS 6333.501 <subject>** in the subject line. This triggers an alert to draw your instructor's attention to your email. You should expect a response within 48 hours. Please let me know if this standard is not being met.

**Assignment submission:** All assignments must be submitted through eLearning. Email submission will be accepted.

- **Late submission of the assignments:** All assignments are due at 3:59 pm on the specified date mentioned in the course calendar. I do not accept late assignments unless prior arrangements have been made with me. A penalty of 25% will be assessed on late assignments for up to one day after the due date, after which late submissions will not be accepted. No exceptions. No extra credit or make-up work will be given. If there are genuine/ extenuating circumstances, I will make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.
- **Bonus Points:**
  - Completing the university-conducted evaluation earns **1% (i.e., 10 points) bonus applied to the final grade.**
- **Extra Credit:** Getting the following certifications during the semester will earn you extra credit:
  - *Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI)* (EC-Council): **10% (100 points)**  
<https://www.eccouncil.org/train-certify/computer-forensics/>  
Certificate(s) earned before the first day of the class or after the last day of class do(es) not qualify for the extra credit.
- **Timing of Scoring / Timing of Score Reviews:** Scoring of assignments and exams is targeted to be completed 7 days after the work is due (the Scoring Period). It is the student's responsibility to check their scores. Questions about scores and requests for Score Reviews will be accepted during the Score Review Period, which is the 7 days after the scoring was scheduled to be completed. After the Score Review Period, the instructor will not address score questions.
  - *If you do not see a score in eLearning for work that you believe you have turned in and for which the Scoring Period has passed, you must ask the TA or instructor about it via email during the Score Question Period, or you will receive a zero.*
- **Score Reviews:** Requests to review a score for an assignment should be submitted in writing via email to the Teaching Assistant (TA). If a student is not satisfied with the TA's explanation, the student may appeal to the instructor via email.
- **eLearning:** eLearning will be used for all graded items and recording scores/grades. eLearning will be used to access all class content not covered in the online website resource (e.g., additional lecture preparation resources, lecture slides, exams, etc.). Class announcements (e.g., changes in assignment dates, course calendar adjustments, etc.) also will be posted on eLearning.
- **Instructor Response Policy:** For any questions for which you expect a formal (actionable) response, you must submit the question in writing from your The University of Texas at Dallas email to the instructor's or TA's UT Dallas email. Neither the instructor nor the TA is responsible for questions submitted orally (e.g., after class or in the hallway) or via any other communication medium. The instructor / TA will respond to all student emails within 48 hours or less (excluding holidays and weekends).
- **Academic Integrity:** The University and the instructor are committed to academic excellence and expect academic honesty from all University community members. We believe that academic honesty is essential for academic excellence and integrity. Academic honesty includes adherence to guidelines established by the instructor in a particular course. It prohibits representing the work of others to be one's own (plagiarism), receiving unauthorized aid on an assignment (cheating), and using similar papers or other work products to fulfill the obligations of different classes without the instructor's permission. Penalties for academic dishonesty will be assessed per the policies and precedents of The University of Texas at Dallas Office of Community Standards and Conduct (OCSC). Penalties may include a score of zero on the work in question or for the entire course. In addition, any student engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to

The University of Texas at Dallas disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Policies website (see below) for detailed information pertaining to academic dishonesty, including procedures for determining disciplinary action.

- **Working Together** on Individual Assignments: This course will have considerable computing work for application assignments. Each student is expected to work on the "individual" assignments. Copying another student's work (computer files) or having another person do your work is academic dishonesty and will be dealt with accordingly.

**Comet Creed:** This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

### General The University of Texas at Dallas Policies & Procedures

For information on general University policies and procedures, please visit <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabuspolicies>.

These policies include the following:

- Technical Support
- Field Trip Policies, Off-Campus Instruction, and Course Activities
- Student Conduct and Discipline, Academic Integrity, Avoiding Plagiarism
- Copyright Notice
- Email Use
- Withdrawal from Class
- Student Grievance Procedures
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Disability Services
- Religious Holy Days

### Tentative Class Schedule

This is a tentative class schedule; any changes will be posted in eLearning. The following provides a tentative outline and sequence of topics to be covered or activities to be undertaken (including exams or assignments) during these meetings. Assignments are due at the beginning of class; for example, an assignment due in Class 2 should be submitted through eLearning before the start of Class 2. The agenda, topics, and JBLearning Cloud Labs for each meeting will be posted before or shortly after the class.

Week	Date	Topics	Reading	Deliverables
Week 1	01/21/2026	Review of Syllabus Overview of Digital Forensics and Incident Management Digital Forensics career Chapter 1: Introduction to Forensics	Chapter 1	Submit Academic Pledge Must acquire the textbook and cloud labs from the JB Learning website <b>Register</b> for Exam I and Exam II with the Testing Center
Week 2	01/28/2026	Chapter 2: Overview of Computer Crime Chapter 3: Forensics Methods and Labs	Chapter 2, Chapter 3	Practice Lab Access, Watch JB Learning lab videos Project Milestone 1
Week 3	02/04/2026	Chapter 4: Collecting, Seizing, and Protecting Evidence	Chapter 4	JB Learning Cloud Lab 1
Week 4	02/11/2026	Chapter 5: Understanding Techniques for Hiding and Scrambling Information	Chapter 5	JB Learning Cloud Lab 2 Project Milestone 2
Week 5	02/18/2026	Chapter 6: Recovering Data	Chapter 6	JB Learning Cloud Lab 3
Week 6	02/25/2026	Chapter 7: Incident Response Exam Review	Chapter 7	JB Learning Cloud Lab 4 Project Milestone 3
Week 7	03/04/2026	<b>Exam I (March 4)</b>	Testing Center	No Class

Week 8	03/11/2025	Chapter 8: Windows Forensics	Chapter 8	JB Learning Cloud Lab 5
Week 9	03/18/2026	Spring Break (3/16/25 – 3/22/25)		No Class
Week 10	03/25/2026	Chapter 9: Linux Forensics	Chapter 9	Milestone 4
Week 11	04/01/2026	Chapter 10: Mac OS Forensics	Chapter 11	JB Learning Cloud Lab 6
Week 12	04/08/2026	Chapter 11: Email Forensics	Chapter 12	JB Learning Cloud Lab 7 Project Milestone 5
Week 13	04/15/2026	Chapter 12: Mobile Forensics	Chapter 12	JB Learning Cloud Lab 8
Week 14	04/22/2026	Chapter 13: Network Forensics	Chapter 13	JB Learning Cloud Lab 9 Project Milestone 6
Week 15	04/29/2026	Chapter 14: Memory Forensics	Chapter 14	JB Learning Cloud Lab 10 Final Project Report
Week 16	05/06/2026	Chapter 15: Trends and Future Directions Exam Review Course Evaluation	Chapter 15	Last Class Course Evaluation (bonus: 1% =10 points) Project Presentation (In- person/video)
Week 17	05/11/2026 05/12/2026	<b>Exam II (May 11 – 12)</b>	Testing Center	Final Exam Week – No Class