Introduction to Security and Privacy

COMP 2109 A – Winter 2026

School of Computer Science, Carleton University

Course Information

Instructor: Jason Hinek (he/him)
Office Location: HP5332 (Herzberg Building)
Email: jason <dot> hinek <at> carleton <dot> ca

Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday
        1:05pm–2:25pm

Course Website: Brightspace/Website TBA

Teaching Modality

This is an in-person class. All students are expected to attend all classes in person. Students are expected to read any materials indicated on the updated course webpage (or sent out in announcements) prior to each class in order to contribute to their learning and their ability to ask relevant questions and contribute in class. Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions. In addition, both midterm exams and the final exam are held in-person.

COMP 2109 [0.5 credit]

Introduction to Security and Privacy

A tour of Internet security and privacy. Societal impacts and case studies. Topics from: protection goals of stakeholders; history of public key cryptography; programming languages and security; security engineering and testing; cybercrime and malware; Internet privacy and anonymity; government surveillance; regulation; ethics; blockchain applications. Includes: Experiential Learning Activity Prerequisite(s): (COMP 1006 or COMP 1406) with a minimum grade of C-, and COMP 2401 with a minimum grade of C-. Lectures three hours a week.

Note: Some classes may be held online using Zoom (live or pre-recorded videos) in special circumstances (such as instructor illness or inclement weather).

Teaching Assistants

Contact information and office hour information will be posted in Brightspcace once the course starts.

Important Dates

See the University Calendar for all important dates:
https://students.carleton.ca/academic-dates/

Required Textbook(s) and Other Resources

There is one required textbook for the course:
- *Permanent Record*, by Edward Snowden
- This book can be purchased at the University Bookstore for $24.99
- You will need a copy of this book with page numbers.

ISBN: 9781250772909
Publisher: Picador
Formats: PAPERBACK
Copyright Year: 2020

Other resources will come from freely available content on the internet.

Assessment Scheme

Grades for this course will be determined as follows:

- 20% Class Participation
- 15% Midterm 1 (Tuesday, February 10)
- 15% Midterm 1 (Tuesday, March 10)
- 16% Summary Reflections (roughly weekly). Due on Fridays at noon.
- 14% Technical Report on the book Permanent Record (Due in March tba)
- 20% Final Exam, scheduled by the registrar

In order to pass the course,
- You must pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

Midterm Exams: Two in-person midterm exams during class time and written in class. These are closed book exams.
- Tuesday, February 10th
- Tuesday, March 10th

Final Exam: In-person final exam scheduled by the registrar's office. Do NOT make travel plans before the final exam schedule is posted.

Missed/Late Assessments: No late submissions for summary reflections are accepted. Your best 8 summary reflections will be used to calculate your summary reflections grade.

If you miss one midterm, an alternate arrangement can be made to recover the lost marks (and will be discussed at the start of the term). If you miss both midterms, your final exam will be a written exam worth 50% of your final grade.

Special Note: For any course assessment (summary reflections and book report, in particular), a set of students may be selected to meet with TAs or the instructor to discuss their work. These students must demonstrate an understanding of their submissions. Failure to do so convincingly will result in losing up to the full marks for that assessment.

Academic Integrity

<TL;DR> Don't cheat.

This course has no group component, unless otherwise specified, and so all deliverables should be completed and submitted individually. Unless it is explicitly stated otherwise, the use of any A.I. systems will be considered academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, chatbots (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Bard, Bing Chart, etc.), research assistants (e.g., Elicit), and image generators (e.g., Stable Diffusion, Dall-E, etc.), etc. Note that the above rule does not hold for automated grammar and punctuation checking tools (such as Grammarly).

To help enforce this policy, students may be randomly selected after each deliverable to explain their code/work to the TAs/instructor in a one-on-one session.

In addition, sharing assignment, challenge, quiz, midterm or final exam specifications or posting them online (to sites like Chegg, CourseHero, OneClass, etc.) is ALWAYS considered academic misconduct. You are NEVER permitted to post, share, or upload course materials without explicit permission from your instructor

For more information about academic integrity please see
https://science.carleton.ca/students/academic-integrity/

Undergraduate Academic Advisors

The Undergraduate Advisors for the School of Computer Science are available in Room 5302HP; or by email at scs.ug.advisor@cunet.carleton.ca. The undergraduate advisors can assist with information about prerequisites and preclusions, course substitutions/equivalencies, understanding your academic audit and the remaining requirements for graduation. The undergraduate advisors will also refer students to appropriate resources such as the Science Student Success Centre, Learning Support Services and Writing Tutorial Services.

SCS Laptop Requirement

Every student that has been enrolled in a 1000-level (i.e., first year) course offered by the School of Computer Science after the 2020/2021 school year is required to have a laptop. This includes COMP1001, COMP1005, and COMP1006. For more information, please visit https://carleton.ca/scs/scs-laptop-requirement/ and then review the requirements at https://carleton.ca/scs/scs-laptop-requirement/laptop-specs/.

SCS Computer Laboratory

Students taking a COMP course can access the SCS computer labs. The lab schedule and location can be found at: https://carleton.ca/scs/tech-support/computer-laboratories/. All SCS computer lab and technical support information can be found at: https://carleton.ca/scs/tech-support/. Technical support staff may be contacted in-person or virtually, see this page for details: https://carleton.ca/scs/tech-support/contact-it-support/.

University Policies:

Academic Accommodations

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. Please review the academic accommodation available to students here: https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/.

Academic Integrity

Student Academic Integrity Policy. Every student should be familiar with the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity policy. A student found in violation of academic integrity standards may be sanctioned with penalties which range from a reprimand to receiving a grade of F in the course, or even being suspended or expelled from the University. Examples of punishable offences include plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration. Any such reported offences will be reviewed by the office of the Dean of Science. More information on this policy may be found on the ODS Academic Integrity page: https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/.

Plagiarism. As defined by Senate, "plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own". Such reported offences will be reviewed by the office of the Dean of Science. More information and standard sanction guidelines can be found here: https://science.carleton.ca/students/academic-integrity/.

Unauthorized Collaboration. Senate policy states that "to ensure fairness and equity in assessment of term work, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of an academic assignment, in whole or in part, when the instructor has indicated that the assignment is to be completed on an individual basis".

Land Acknowledgement

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.