



Insights into Cyber Crime & Digital Evidence ~ A Basic Introduction

Course Instructor: Ms. Samiksha Das

Jindal Institute of Behavioral Sciences (JIBS)

4 Credit Course

Cross-elective

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Faculty Contact: Ms. Samiksha Das

Email: samiksha.das@jgu.edu.in

Office Hours: Appointment via mail

The information provided herein is by the Course Coordinator. The following information contains the official record of the details of the course.

PART 1

Course Title: Insights into Cyber Crime & Digital Evidence~ A Basic Introduction	
Course Code	BE-E-0073
Course Duration	1 Semester
No. of Credit Units	4
Level	UG/PG
Pre-Requisites	Nil
Pre-Cursors	Nil
Equivalent Courses	Nil
Exclusive Courses	Nil
Class Timing	

PART II

Course description:

Cybercrime is now common and presents new challenges in the prevention and detection of crime. This course provides an authoritative synthesis of the disparate literature on the various types of cybercrime, the global investigation and detection of cybercrime and the role of digital information, and the wider role of technology as a facilitator for social relationships between deviants and criminals.

Course Aim:

- To gain insights into cybercrime investigation and digital evidence.
- To develop understanding of digital evidence analysis.
- To reflect upon scientific reports and findings and relative application in a criminal case.

Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of the course students will have understanding of –

- Key theoretical and methodological perspectives of cyber crimes

- Economic crime and online fraud
- Digital forensic investigation

Course Format

The course will be majorly taught using class discussions, anecdotes, presentations, readings, and experiential exercises. The evaluations will include in-class activities, individual and group presentations, written assignments, quizzes, and projects. You are expected to prepare for and attend each class according to the course schedule.

Assessment Details

Type of Evaluation	Assignment	Marks	Learning Outcome
Internal	In class Activity*	10 x 2 = 20	Application of theory into practice
	Group Presentation*	15	Understanding real cases through the lens of Forensic Psychology
	Research Proposal	15	Thorough understanding on how to use psychometric assessment along with any psychophysiological instrument
	Objective Test*	15	
	Class Participation	5	
External	Close Book Type	30	

(*Please note that absenteeism on day of assessment will not be entertained and no assessments shall be rescheduled.)

Missed or Late Assessment Submission

All assessments are expected to be submitted on the scheduled day. In case of exceptional circumstances, the student can contact the course instructor and at their discretion (with or without penalty), the instructor may take a call on the concession that is granted. It is the student's responsibility to double-check that the correct file has been submitted. In case the incorrect or corrupted document is submitted for evaluation, it may result in a lower grade for the student.

Grading Student Assessment

Letter Grade	Percentage of Marks	Grade Points	Interpretation
O	80 and above	8	Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.
A+	75 - 79	7.5	Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 - 74	7	Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyze existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 -69	6	Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.
B+	60 - 64	5	Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B	55 - 59	4	Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 - 54	3	Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 - 49	2	Pass 1: Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 - 44	1	Pass 2: Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.
F	Below 40	0	Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.

Course Outline and Readings:

Unit I- Technology and Cyber-Crime (Week 1-3)

1. Technology as a landscape for crime
2. Typology of Cybercrime & Cyber Attack

Readings:

1. Brenner, S. W. (2008). *Cyberthreats: The Emerging Fault Lines of the Nation State*. New York: Oxford University Press
2. Casey, E. (2011). *Digital Evidence and Computer Crime: Forensic Science, Computers, and the Internet* (3rd eds). Waltham, MA: Academic Press.
3. Denning, D. E. (2011). *Cyber-conflict as an emergent social problem*. In T. J. Holt and B. Schell (eds), *Corporate Hacking and Technology-driven Crime: Social Dynamics and Implications* (pp. 170–186). Hershey, PA: IGI-Global.

Unit II - Computer hackers and hacking (Week 4-6)

1. Defining computer hacking
2. Victims of hacking
3. The human aspects of the hacker subculture

Readings:

1. Bachmann, M. (2010). The risk propensity and rationality of computer hackers. *The International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 4, 643–656.
2. Brenner, S. W. (2011). Defining cybercrime: A review of federal and state law. In R. D. Clifford (ed.), *Cybercrime: The Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of a Computer-related Crime* (3rd edn) (pp. 15–104). Raleigh, NC: Carolina Academic Press.
3. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2017a). Cyber Crime. Available at: www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber.
4. Weismann, M. F. (2011). International cybercrime: Recent developments in the law. In R.D. Clifford (ed.), *Cybercrime: The Investigation, Prosecution, and Defence of a Computer-related Crime* (3rd edn) (pp. 257–294). Raleigh, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Unit III - Economic crimes and online fraud (Week 7-10)

1. Fraud and computer-mediated communications
2. Identity theft
3. Email-based scams (Phishing)
4. Romance scams
5. ATM Frauds

Readings:

1. Balsmeier, P., Bergiel, B. J., and Viosca Jr., R. C. (2004). Internet fraud: A global perspective. *Journal of E-Business*, 4(1), 1–12.
2. Buchanan, T., and Whitty, M. T. (2013). The online dating romance scam: Causes and consequences of victimhood. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 20, 261–283.

3. Harrell, E. (2014). *Victims of Identity Theft, 2014 (NCJ 248991)*. Available at: www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5408.
4. HoneyNet Research Alliance. (2003). Profile: Automated Credit Card Fraud. Know Your Enemy paper series. Available at: <http://old.honeynet.org/papers/profiles/ccfraud.pdf>

Unit IV- Evolution of digital forensics (Week 11)

1. From computer forensics to digital forensics
2. Stages of digital forensic investigation
3. The role of digital evidence

Readings:

1. Allen, R. J., Kuhns, R. B., Swift, E., Schwartz, D. S., and Pardo, M. S. (2011). *Evidence: Text, Cases, and Problems* (5th edn). New York: Aspen Publishers.
2. Evans, D. (2011). The Internet of Things: How the next evolution of the internet is changing everything. April. Available at: www.cisco.com/c/dam/en_us/about/ac79/docs/innov/IoT_IBSG_0411FINAL.pdf.
3. Saferstein, R. (2010). *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science* (10th edn). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Unit V - Acquisition and examination of forensic evidence (Week 12-13)

1. Uncovering digital evidence
2. Reporting findings

Readings:

1. Beebe, N. L., and Clark, J. G. (2005). A hierarchical, objectives-based framework for the digital investigations process. *Digital Investigation*, 2(2), 147–167.
2. Casey, E. (2009). *Handbook of Digital Forensics and Investigation*. Burlington, MA: Elsevier Academic Press.
3. Marcella, A. J., and Guillosoy, F. (2012). *Cyber Forensics: From Data to Digital Evidence*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Unit VI - Theories of Crime (Week 14-15)

1. Neutralisation Theory,
2. Strain Theory,
3. Deindividuation,
4. Social Learning,
5. Self-Control Theory

PRACTICAL & APPLIED PERSPECTIVE

25% of the classroom hours will be dedicated towards practical exposure through worksheet, case study and utilisation of brain behaviour laboratory.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Professional Conduct in Classroom

1. You are expected to arrive on time in the classroom and follow the classroom decorum.
2. It is expected that you are punctual in class and be seated immediately within the first two minutes so that the class can start on time. Students arriving after a ten-minute window from the designated start time will be given three warnings and there-after will be refused for entry/attendance.
3. Both later comers and early departures disrupt the learning environment and would be penalized.
4. You are expected to participate in the classroom discussions, activities and presentation. Participation is essential in this class.
5. You are also expected to be respectful when the instructor is teaching. Furthermore, you are welcomed to share your thoughts in the class, but you are expected to do that respectfully and be welcoming of other perspectives in the class even if you disagree with the same.

Notes on Plagiarism

1. *Plagiarism is not acceptable!* Please refrain from copying and pasting paragraphs and sentences from your reading materials. This includes copying someone's words, structure, grammar, ideas, thoughts, and phrases and passing them as your own. Too many quotes are not acceptable! Use of AI-generated content is not acceptable. All assignments submitted will be thoroughly checked.
2. What is acceptable? Using one quote which is not more than 40 words with proper citation. Use citation! It's a must! Present the content you read from your reading materials in your own words! Think and critically analyse the content! The source should be always acknowledged in your written material and presentation. All papers in this class will be checked electronically for plagiarism.

Attendance Policy

1. Students are expected to attend all classes (100% attendance).
2. A student who fails to attend a class is expected to inform the Course Instructor, in writing via mail, the reason for his or her absence.
3. A minimum of 75% attendance is mandatory, failing which, student is not permitted to take the final exam or end term exam.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices such as laptops, headphones, mobiles phones are known to be major distractions for learning. Therefore, students will be permitted to use electronic devices only at the behest of the course instructor.

Safe Space Pledge

Some parts of this course may discuss a range of issues that might result in distress for some students. Discussions and images in the course might also provoke strong emotional responses. To make sure that all students collectively benefit from the course, and do not feel troubled due to either the contents of the course, or the conduct of the discussions, it is incumbent upon all within the classroom to pledge to maintain respect towards our peers. This does not mean that you need to feel restrained about what you feel and what you want to say. Conversely, this is about creating a safe space where everyone can speak and learn without inhibition and fear. This responsibility lies not only on students, but also the instructor.

Disability Support and Accommodation Requirements

1. JGU endeavours to make all its courses accessible to students. All students with a known disability needing academic accommodations are required to register with the Disability Support Committee dsc@jgu.edu.in. The Committee has so far identified the following conditions that could possibly hinder student's overall well-being. These include physical and mobility related difficulties; visual impairment; hearing impairment; medical conditions; specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia; mental health.
2. The Disability Support Committee maintains strict confidentiality in its discussions. The students should preferably register with the Committee in the first week of the semester as disability accommodation requires early planning. DSC will approve and coordinate all the disability related services such as appointment of academic mentors, specialized interventions and course related requirements such as accessible classrooms for lectures, tutorials and examinations.
3. All faculty members are required to refer students with any of the above-mentioned conditions to the Disability Support Committee for addressing disability-related accommodation requirements.

Centre for Wellness and Counselling Services:

Contact: Email ID: cwcs@jgu.edu.in

Mobile: +91 8396907312