

Spring 2024

IT 430-002, 452: Ethical Hacking for Administrators

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Recommended Citation

Senesy, Stan, "IT 430-002, 452: Ethical Hacking for Administrators" (2024). *Informatics Syllabi*. 303.
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IT 430

Ethical Hacking for Administrators

Syllabus

Instructor:	Stan J. Senesy (senesy@njit.edu)		
Office:	NJIT Newark, GITC rm. 3803. (973)596-5288.		
Office hours:	Online only during this semester		
Text:	Weidman, <u>Penetration Testing: A Hands-On Introduction to Hacking</u> , No Starch Press, 2014 ISBN: 978-1593275648		
Schedule:	Section 002	Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 – 11:20 am	CKB119
	Section 452	Asynchronous online only, no set meeting times	

Course Description

This course basically goes through everything that is involved in performing a basic penetration test. In fact, the course project will be to write a test report. We will cover the background for testing, the legal justification, test plan, as well as the exploits used during the test. Penetration testing is sometimes referred to as 'Ethical Hacking'.

What is ethical hacking? The threat to systems is one that is continuously changing and evolving. It is not sufficient that a System Administrator harden a system based upon the threats that are currently known. Typically, one must think out of the box with the mentality that in order to catch a thief, you need to think like a thief. The goal of the ethical hacker is to help the organization take preemptive measures against malicious attacks by attacking the system himself; all the while staying within **legal limits**.

The quote the certification guide, an Ethical Hacker is an individual who is usually employed with the organization and who can be trusted to undertake an attempt to penetrate networks and/or computer systems using the same methods as a Hacker. **Hacking is a felony in the United States and most other countries**. Only when it is done by **request** and under a **contract** between an Ethical Hacker and an organization, it is considered legal. The most important point is that an Ethical Hacker **has authorization** to probe or attack the target. Illegal or unethical use of the techniques discussed in class will result in immediate dismissal from the course and potentially other consequences.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will have developed skills that will allow them to:

- develop a comprehensive test plan utilizing penetration testing
- conduct passive and active reconnaissance
- integrate social engineering into the testing scenario

Prerequisites

IT 340 – Core administration skills learned in this course are required for IT 430 and will not be covered during this class. **Do not take IT 430 unless you have successfully completed IT 340. Concurrent registration is not acceptable.**

Course Computing Requirements

You must have access to and administrative rights on, a computer that meets the NJIT minimum baseline computer system standards to complete this course. You can find a listing of the minimum computing requirements at <https://ist.njit.edu/fall-2019-recommended-specs/> The computer must have a webcam and microphone for exams.

We will be using vCloud to create and administer virtual instances of various operating systems. We will cover the configuration of your computer during the first week of class.

Please note that students are responsible for the administration/maintenance of their own computer. This includes any software loaded onto it for this course. While I will provide help with problems when I have time available, responsibility for resolving problems remains with the student.

Grading:

Homework/Labs/Quizzes	25%
Project	20%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	35%

Grades will be computed on a straight scale out of 100 possible points

90-100	A
87-89	B+
80-86	B
77-79	C+
70-76	C
60-69	D
> 59	F

Lectures

I tend to use PowerPoint slides for the main points in my presentations. You can find a copy of the slides that I will use on the course Canvas board at:

<https://canvas.njit.edu/>

You will need your UCID and password to login. There are tutorials available for you to view if this is your first experience with Canvas.

The actual lecture will be given through WebEx synchronously at the day and time indicated on the Registrar's web site. Attendance and participation are expected and mandatory.

Homework

You will be generally be assigned an activity every other week. Each homework assignment will cover 2 weeks' worth of topic areas. We will usually go over information about any potential problem areas that might be encountered during the lecture presentation for that week.

Project

There will be a semester-long individual project that will involve writing a test report based on the course lab/homework experiences. Details of the project will be discussed once the course begins.

Assessment

The midterm and final will constitute a significant portion of your overall grade and be given online. Exam dates and times are listed in the syllabus schedule. The exams will contain information from the text, as well as lectures. The final will be cumulative. Both exams may potentially be given using the Respondus monitoring system. A webcam with microphone is required.

If you miss an exam, the Dean of Students will validate your emergency and will contact me regarding rescheduling. If you have a schedule conflict that will cause you to miss an exam, please inform me immediately so that we can arrange an alternate date for you to complete the test.

Collaboration

You are encouraged to work together with your classmates in order to help your high-level understanding of the material presented in the course. Any solutions to assignments/exams/projects presented for credit must be work created on your own. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other anti-intellectual behavior will be dealt with as per the NJIIT Code of Academic Integrity. You can find a copy of the Code here:

Academic Policies (Please Read This Carefully)

Late work will be marked down according the following scale. The timestamp in Canvas will determine how late your work was (no exceptions):

0 – 24 hours (-10%)

Work that is more than a single day late will not be accepted. If you 're-submit' homework, the later timestamp will be used to determine if it is late. Once I have graded your work, you cannot modify it and turn it in again.

If you have an emergency (hospitalization, military service, or anything defined as an emergency by the University) please contact the office of the Dean of Students. I will not accept your doctor's note, etc. They will validate it and get back to me at which point I will remove the late penalty from your work. Grades will not be posted until after the 96-hour period has expired.

I do not offer 'extra credit' assignments. Every student has an equal opportunity to earn the grade they would like in the course. The overall point spread is broad enough that doing poorly on a single assignment or quiz should not significantly affect your grade.

I do not curve individual assignments. If, at the end of the course I determine that a curve is justified, then I will curve ALL final grades (either positively or negatively) equally. Grading scales are applied consistently across the entire class - no exceptions.