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CSCI 4364 - Computer Systems Administration

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ITEC 3381 - Forensics Fundamentals

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Contact Information

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Syllabus

ITEC 3381 - Forensics Fundamentals

Course Syllabus

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Krishani Abeysekera

Lecturer and Systems Administrator

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Office Hours:
Tues: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

May also be arranged as needed

Course Description

Sources of computer forensics evidence, search and seizure processing, data storage methods, primary partitions and extended partitions, file allocation tables, deleted file recovery methods, accessing drives with write blocking technology, imaging drives, validating image file integrity and basic evidence analysis. Laboratory instruction.

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Prerequisites

none

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TA Information

Kiran Poojala
Email : Poojalak9737@UHCL.edu
TA hours: Posted on TA's website.

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Texts & Readings

Textbook: **The Basics of Digital Forensics – A Primer for Getting Started in Digital Forensics**
(required) John Sammons
March 2012
Elsevier Science

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Learning Outcomes

After completing this class, students will be able to:

- Students will be able to identify forensically sound practices in collecting evidence.
- Students will be able to convert from a decimal number system to a binary and hexadecimal number system.
- Students will be able to use and operate the FTK Imager software.
- Students will be able to image data storage devices.
- Students will be able to understand how data is stored in partitions.
- Students will be able to use software and hardware forensics tools to perform rudimentary investigations.

This course will also focus on strengthening students' problem solving skills and some team-work.

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Instructional Method

In this course, a 'student-centered' approach will be emphasized instead of the traditional teacher-centered approach. Students are expected to attend all classes, read related material and notes before class, work homework exercises, and participate in class discussion, problem solving and laboratory experiments

The University of Houston-Clear Lake and its staff are here to help students learn and achieve their academic goals. The instructor is expected to be prepared, to be punctual, to conduct appropriate classroom activities such as delivering lectures and promoting

classroom discussions, to keep students informed of any changes in the course, to assist students generally in their efforts to learn the course material, and to evaluate student performance on assignments, on exams, and for the course as a whole.

The student is expected to be on time, to be prepared to participate in classroom activities and to make use of all available resources in order to learn about the topics covered in the course. Students should be conscientious and punctual about attending classes, reading the textbook and handouts, submitting assignments, taking notes, asking questions, studying the material, and preparing for examinations. Students should be self-reliant, honest, and courteous. If the student has any difficulties, problems, or conflicts, she/he should communicate with the instructor or the teaching assistant. If the teaching assistant is not responsive or helpful, students should contact the instructor for assistance. If the instructor is not responsive or helpful, students should contact the division chair.

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Class Policies

Expect to spend 3-4 hours a week on this class.

- Class attendance is expected.
- No extra credit work will be given.
- Grade discrepancies will be discussed only within one week after the return of the graded assignments, quizzes and exams.
- Every student is expected to work on their assignments alone. Cheating will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating or attempting to cheat will be given a zero on the assignment or the exam. Repeat offenders will be given an F for the course and may suffer expulsion from the university. All work must be your own. You may discuss the material in the course and help one another, however, I expect any work you hand in for a grade to be your own. Plagiarism will result in, at best, an "F" for the assignment. A simple way to avoid inadvertent plagiarism is to talk about the assignments, but not to read each other's work or write solutions together.
- If you copy another student's work, or let another person copy your work, you will be in violation of the academic honesty policy that is stated in the UHCL catalog. Read the Plagiarism Article from <http://wso.williams.edu/~athoms/WW/3--PlagiarismHandout.pdf> and the UHCL Honesty Policy in the UHCL catalog (see UHCL website).
- Cell phones need to be turned off before coming to class.

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Schedule

The course schedule can be found at the [schedule link](#) on the website.

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Assignments

Assignments are posted on my website. It is **your responsibility** to check the website regularly. The due date of assignments will be given with each assignment. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. **They will not be accepted at any later time.** (There is no drop box in which to submit your labs or assignments.) If a student is unable to come to class on a due date, it is the students' responsibility to submit the assignment to the instructor **by the due date and time**. Only the instructor will accept assignments. **Assignments handed to TA or any other person will not be graded.**

It is your responsibility to keep your assignments with original grade marks. You **NEED** to show the original marks in case you have a dispute with your grade.

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Laboratory

There will be several labs that will be done in class, and also as homework assignments. The exams will also have lab components incorporated.

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Quizzes

Quizzes on the previous class days' materials might be given after the question and answer session on **randomly** selected dates. These quizzes will be held at the beginning of class, and students are given 10 minutes to complete the quiz. It is the students' responsibility to come to class on time. If the student is late to class, he/she will be given whatever remaining time that there is for the quiz. If the student comes to class after the quiz is completed, he/she will get a 0 for that quiz. **There are no makeup quizzes.**

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Exams

Exams will have laboratory components as well. There will be no makeup exams. According to UHCL rules, you **CANNOT** miss the final exam.

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Assessment and Grading Criteria

The following is the weight (%) of each component used to calculate final course grade:

Final Grade	Percent
Assignments	25%
Quizzes	15%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	20%

The following conversion scale will be used between the numeric and letter grades:

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[90..100]	A			
[87..89.9]	B+	[83..86.0]	B	[80..82.9] B-
[77..79.9]	C+	[73..76.9]	C	[70..72.9] C-
[67..69.9]	D+	[63..66.9]	D	[60..62.9] D-
[0..59.9]	F			

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Other Rules and Information

University Academic Honesty Policy: All UHCL students are responsible for knowing the standards of academic honesty. Please refer to the UHCL catalog and the student Life Handbook for the University Academic Honesty Policy. Plagiarism, that is, using research without citations, or using intellectual property without crediting the sources, will result in failure of the course. See the [UHCL academic honesty policy](#) for details.

Academic Integrity: Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional manners. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet these standards.

Access to Education: Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact the instructor as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. For information on assistive technology available for student use and additional information on services available through Coordinator of Health Disabilities Services, Bayou 1402, telephone 281-283-2627. If you will require special academic accommodations, as specified by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the [Disability Services Office](#) at 281-283-2627.

Collaboration: Collaborative work, such as studying or discussing course assignments and materials with other class members is encouraged.

Changes in Syllabus: The instructor may make necessary revisions of the syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep informed of any changes. All changes will be posted on the website.

Copyright: All materials in this course fall under copyright laws and should not be downloaded, distributed, or used by students for any purposes outside of this course.

6 Drop Rule: Students who entered college for the first time in Fall 2007 or later should be aware of the course drop limitation imposed by the Texas Legislature. Dropping this or any other course between the first day of class and the census date for the semester/session does not affect your 6 drop rule count. Dropping a course between the census date and the last day to drop a class for the semester/session will count as one of your 6 permitted drops. You should take this into consideration before dropping this or any other course. Visit www.uhcl.edu/records for more information on the 6 drop rule and the census date information for the semester/session.

Other UHCL Policies : UHCL General Program Requirements on Withdrawals, Appeals, GPA, Repeated Courses etc. can be found at <http://www.uhcl.edu/XDR/Render/catalog/archives/125/06/>.

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