

03 Aug 2026

Subj: SY110 COURSE POLICY – AY2027 FALL

- Ref:
- (a) ACDEANINST 1531.58B, Administration of Academic Programs
 - (b) ACDEANINST 1531.64B, Academic Accountability
 - (c) ACDEANNOTE 1531 Series, Academic Scheduling and Start of Semester Items
 - (d) CYBERSCIINST 1610.1, Cyber Science Department (SY) Courses Honor Policy
 - (e) PROVOSTINST 1531.60B, Grades and Reports
 - (f) PROVOSTINST 1531.82D, Course Policy and Syllabus Content

1. Purpose. Per References (a) through (f), the following comprises the course policies for SY110 – Introduction to Cyber Security – Technical Foundations, Academic Year (AY) 2027 Fall term.

***NOTICE:** You will learn concepts with cybersecurity tools that could be used unethically or illegally.*

- *DO NOT use knowledge or experience gained for unethical purposes.*
- *You MAY NOT use tools and techniques learned in this class to violate USNA policy or any other Government restrictions on information system use.*
- *You should never employ offensive cyber tools or techniques on any information system without the express written consent of the information system owner or legal authority.*

Note: Any of the topics, tactics, or techniques discussed in SY110 may be used for research purposes.

2. General Information.

a. Course Details.

- 1) Course: SY110 – Introduction to Cyber Security – Technical Foundations
- 2) Credits: 2-2-3
- 3) Term: AY2027 Fall
- 4) Prerequisites: None

- b. Classroom Decorum. Classes will be held in a professional manner and remain civil at all times. Respectful conduct, including attentive listening, thoughtful responses, and coming to class on time and prepared, is required of everyone in order to foster a positive learning environment. Students shall attend to personal matters before the start of class. Beverages are permitted in classrooms and laboratories provided they are in closed containers. No food or smokeless tobacco products are permitted in classrooms or laboratories.
- c. Non-Attribution of Communication. USNA follows the practice of non-attribution to protect all faculty, staff, midshipmen, and guests. To foster an environment where ideas are openly exchanged, this class follows the practice of non-attribution for all communications (in-person, written, and electronic). If you wish to refer to another person's ideas or comments outside of this class, you may refer to them as 'a fellow class member' or 'a speaker,' but you may not disclose the speaker's identity without their express permission.
- d. Remote Classes. If remote classes are required, the same classroom decorum standards will be held for remote/online students. Your instructor will outline additional information on format and responsibilities should a remote/online environment be required.

3. Course Description. This course is a hands-on, lab-based course that provides a technically focused introduction to the principles behind the use, function, and operation of computers, networks, and applications with an emphasis on cyber security.
4. Course Learning Outcomes. Through this course and your collective efforts, you will be able to:
 - a. Explain why the Cyber Domain is important to the Navy, a Junior Officer, and an individual, and why it is an important component of modern warfare.
 - b. Describe computers, operating systems, networks, and the Internet. Analyze digital representations of information, basic computer and network operations and associated tools, and their underlying architectures and protocols.
 - c. Identify and describe the principles and desired properties of defensible information systems, and the techniques and tools that are used to provide them.
 - d. Explain, differentiate, and perform actions related to offensive and defensive cyber operations.
 - e. Identify the user's responsibility regarding technology and explain the consequences of potential user actions in terms of risk and the tradeoff between services and security.
5. Course Resources.
 - a. Students. You will achieve the course outcomes through sustained, active participation in the course activities, course discussions, and course assignments. This is a hands-on course that requires your active participation in the learning process. Your individual and group success in this course is highly dependent on your individual participation in the course activities.
 - b. Course Materials. The course website will be the primary method you will access course materials and should be considered your "textbook". The course calendar is also located on the course website, which contains the planned schedule of topics covered and exam dates. The course website is accessible on the Naval Academy Intranet at <https://courses.cyber.usna.edu/SY110>.
 - 1) Remote Access Off-Yard. Accessing servers and virtual resources are strictly limited to Intranet use. For remote access when traveling off-yard, be sure to configure Virtual Private Network (VPN) access by reviewing the instructions provided on the Information Technology Service Center (ITSC) page at <https://intranet.usna.edu/ITSC/network/remote-access.php> and configuring your computer appropriately.
 - c. Issued Laptops. You are required to bring your government issued laptop sufficiently charged or additionally bring your laptop battery charger to every class meeting. You will use your laptop in all classes. You will be marked as late if you have to leave the classroom to get your laptop or your laptop battery charger. Laptops may be used to take notes, interact with the course lessons, and perform laboratory exercises only. Your instructor may provide specific times where laptops may not be used.

- 1) Phones are not authorized to be used during class periods at any time unless directed by your instructor.
- 2) Tablets and other mobile devices may be authorized for use to view course materials.
- d. Virtual Desktop Environment (VDE). Accessing systems for conducting assignment activities shall utilize the VDE through the VSphere client located at <https://vcenter.cyber.usna.edu/>.
- e. Academic Resources.
 - 1) XS110 – Supplemental Instruction to SY110. The Center for Academic Excellence offers XS110, a 1-hour (0-credit) extra study session for SY110. Supplemental instruction courses do not have an associated grade with them, and can be added or dropped anytime during the semester. The XS110 schedule is available in MIDS. Ask your Academic Advisor or Instructor for further information.
 - 2) Midshipmen Group Study Program (MGSP). MGSP is an evening study program run by Midshipmen for Midshipmen. There is no requirement to make an appointment to attend an MGSP session, you will be asked to sign in at MGSP sessions. Ask your instructor for further information.
 - 3) Extra Instruction (EI). If you are struggling with course material or want to dig deeper into the course material, seek extra instruction. See your instructor for their office hours.
 - 4) Academic Center (AcCenter). Tutoring services are provided by qualified staff with additional review sessions held prior to exams. You may visit their website at <https://www.usna.edu/AcCenter/> or review additional information posted on the course calendar.
 - 5) Nimitz Library. The library provides many excellent research opportunities for midshipmen. The Cyber Science Subject Specialist is Sarah Lopez (lopezs@usna.edu).
6. Grading. Every effort will be made to ensure prompt and sufficient feedback on graded material. Feedback and grades will be clearly identified on returned work.
 - a. Homework and Laboratory Assignments. Will be made available through Blackboard. You will be allowed no more than three attempts on each homework assignment and one attempt on each laboratory assignment. Assignments can be a collaborative effort IAW Section 7 and Reference (d) unless specifically advised by your instructor. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of class.
 - b. Examinations. You will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the material through assessments. All quizzes and exams will be individual effort. The final exam will be cumulative; the 12-Week exam will focus on material from Weeks 7-12, but will require an understanding of material from the first six weeks.
 - 1) Non-Disclosure. All material and questions on exams shall not be discussed or disclosed to anyone. Expiration of this restriction will apply at the end of day when an

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in-class review of the exam has been conducted by your instructor. At no time should you accept or disclose exam information to students outside your year group.

- c. Extra Credit. Additional extra credit opportunities may be provided throughout the course for assignments, quizzes, exams, and attending non-mandatory events.
- 1) At minimum, students in the same section shall all be provided the same opportunities if extra credit is provided.
 - 2) At no time shall extra credit be only limited to a single student or provided to specific, selected students.
 - 3) Any extra credit shall be completed on an individual basis with no assistance from other midshipmen or faculty, regardless of the overall assignment's collaboration policy. You may inquire with your instructor for any guidance.
 - 4) Extra credit provided to all SY110 sections will be reviewed and approved by the course coordinator.
- d. Weighting.

Category / Grading Period	6-Week	12-Week	16-Week	Overall
6-Week Exam	50%	25%	25%	15%
12-Week Exam	-	25%	25%	15%
Final Exam	-	-	-	25%
Homework/Quiz	20%	20%	20%	20%
Laboratory	30%	30%	30%	25%

Note: Homework and Laboratory grades will be cumulative; for example, the 12-week grading period homework grade will include homework assignments from the beginning of the course through the 12-week grading period.

- e. +/- Grading. The standard SY110 grading will follow the +/- grading scale IAW Reference (e). The standard grading scale for +/- will be the 7th/3rd percentiles of each decile- e.g. an 87%-89.99% will be a B+, 83%-86.99% will be a B, and an 80%-82.99% will be a B-. There are no A+ or D- grades.
- 1) Grades and scores shall not be rounded at any point in the course.
- f. Late Policy. Late assignments will not be accepted for any credit after the assigned deadline has passed, unless approved in advance by your instructor. Approvals for late work will only be done on a case-by-case basis in rare and exceptional circumstances.
- g. Absences. As a leader you are expected to look ahead, identify issues, and propose solutions. It is your responsibility to discuss with your instructor at least one week prior to a planned absence (Movement Order (MO), medical/dental appointment, etc.) your plans to make up course material. If an unplanned absence occurs at the last minute, you shall contact your

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Instructor to arrange plans to make up course material as soon as possible. A plan approved by your instructor may supersede the late policy. Failing to discuss plans to make up material prior to a planned absence or by the day you return from an unplanned absence will result in the missed assignments being treated as late. Effort will be made to make the requisite course material available to you before a planned absence to allow you to complete assignments prior to your departure to support you not falling behind academically.

7. Academic Integrity and Collaboration. Reference (d) contains the definition of the different collaboration policies that will be used to specify what actions are authorized and unauthorized. ***You are charged with understanding and executing the honor policy, and seeking clarification at any time if there is a potential misconception; if in doubt, seek clarification from your instructor.***

- a. Unless stated otherwise on a specific assignment or by the instructor, the following collaboration policies shall apply to the assignments of that type.

Homework	Collaborative
Laboratory	Collaborative
Exam	Individual

You are allowed to collaborate with other students currently enrolled in SY110. However, copying will never be considered as collaboration; will always be considered a violation of the honor policy. All solutions/code should be written on your own with your own words/code, and splitting up an assignment into parts in a manner in which individuals work on separate parts independently is not permitted unless otherwise instructed.

- a. Authorized Resources. XS110, SY110 MGSP, AcCenter, and EI will always be considered an authorized resource, and shall be documented on assignments as appropriate.
- b. Plagiarism and cheating. Nimitz Library provides guidance and resources to help understand plagiarism - <https://libguides.usna.edu/c.php?g=410493&p=2795742>. It is up to the instructor's discretion for any evidence, witness, or accusation of plagiarism and cheating in determining the final grade, regardless of current student performance, for a specific assignment and the overall course. This includes any unauthorized or inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), generative or discriminative, and especially when attempting to pass ideas, works, or concepts as their own.
- c. Generative AI. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in this course is governed by the [AI Usage Framework for USNA Courses](#). Unless otherwise specified, this course permits AI-1 level usage. Instructors may modify the permitted level of AI use for individual assignments as needed.
- 1) If you are uncertain whether AI is permitted for a particular assignment or how it may be used, seek clarification from your instructor before using it. If clarification is unavailable, the appropriate assumption is that AI assistance is

not permitted. When AI use is authorized, you must document your use in accordance with course requirements.

8. Course Schedule. The latest changes to the course schedule are published online in the course calendar at https://courses.cyber.usna.edu/SY110/calendar.php?show=calendar_display. The planned schedule for the AY2026 Fall semester is as follows:

Week	Lesson Topics
1	C0: Course Overview C1/L1: Computer Architecture C2: Intro to the Cyberspace Domain
2	C3: File Systems and Hierarchies C4: Numeral Systems in Computing C5: Operating System Shells and Permissions
3	C6: Intro to the WWW and HTML L2: Linux and Windows Operating Systems C7: Intro to JavaScript
4	L3: Build a Website C7: Intro to JavaScript Continued ----- Six Week Exam Cutoff -----
5	C8: Client-Side Scripting L4: Cross Site Scripting C9: Server-Side Scripting
6	----- Six Week Exam ----- C10: Intro to Cryptography / Symmetric Encryption
7	C11: Asymmetric Encryption L5: Hashing / Passwords C12: Digital Signatures and Digital Certificates
8	C13: Stack - Intro/Application C14: Stack - Transport C15: Stack - Network C16: Stack - Data Link
9	L6: Build a Network C17: Stack – Physical ----- 12 Week Exam Cutoff -----
10	C18: Network Security Architectures L7: Securing Networks C19: Human Factors in Cybersecurity
11	----- 12 Week Exam ----- C20: Vulnerabilities & Malware
12	C21: Active and Passive Reconnaissance L8: Cyber Reconnaissance
13	C22: Risk and Vulnerability Management L9: Computer Network Attack C23: Cyber Threat Intelligence and Modeling
14	C24: Incident Response and Digital Forensics L10: Computer Network Defense C25: Law, Policy, and Ethics

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15	C24: Digital Forensics (File Carving) (Cont.)
16	C26: Intro: AI in Cyber Security L11: AI in Cyber Security
17	L11: AI in Cyber Security / Student Opinion Forms ----- <i>Final Exam</i> -----

(C) Class, (L) Lab

9. Course Management.

a. Section Leaders. The Section Leader will:

- 1) Call the class to attention at the beginning and end of each class session, and report muster results (per Reference (b)).
- 2) In the event the instructor is not present five minutes *after* the start of a class session (per Reference (b)), report to the Cyber Science Department front office (HP489) and report that your SY110 Instructor is not present.
- 3) Assist the Instructor as directed, as well as act as a liaison between the class and Instructor.
- 4) Assistant Section Leader. The Assistant Section Leader will assist the Section Leader as necessary, as well as act as the Section Leader in their absence.

b. The SY110 course leadership is as follows:

- 1) Cyber Science Department Chair: CDR Ike Stutts (stutts@usna.edu).
- 2) Course Director: Prof. John Doherty (jjdohert@usna.edu).
- 3) Course Coordinator: LCDR Bart Ellison (bellison@usna.edu).
- 4) Assistant Course Coordinator: LT John Trezza (trezza@usna.edu).

c. Policy Addendums. Instructors may provide supplemental policy addendums IAW Reference (f) that shall not supersede requirements specified in this document. In the event of any conflict or ambiguities, this policy shall take precedence.

Bart Ellison

B. ELLISON
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SY110 Course Coordinator