Course Syllabus

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Point Loma Nazarene University

CSC 3102 Security+ Exam Prep

Fall 2022 – Online (2 Credit Hours)

Time and Place: Online and anytime

Instructor: Maria Zack, Ph.D.

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Office Hours:

Please email me for an appointment. I am on sabbatical this semester so will be traveling and changing time zones.

Text: Text is included as an electronic copy in course. **Please check the modules for instructions about how to purchase online access to the material from UCertify.**

Needed Supplies:

Students will need access to a computer and a high speed internet connection

Course Description:

CSC3102 is an independent study, self-paced, competency based course designed for students who wish to prepare for the CompTIA's Security+ certification exam. The course is intended for students who have already completed a Cyber Security course covering the foundational elements of modern cyber security concepts. Students will be required to first work through each of the study guides lessons and then complete pre-assessment exams to determine which (if any) knowledge domains require review. Students will then review any required knowledge domains to prepare for the practice exams. Students will then take a series of practice tests, review deficient content areas and retake until all practice test have been passed with an 80 or better. **A minimum score of 80 on all chapter quizzes and practice exams are required to pass the course if a passing score on the certification exam is not**

achieved. A faculty advisor provides support and accountability in completing the requirements of the course. Although the course is self-paced, a minimum amount of progress must be made each week and all course requirements must be completed within the assigned course time. Attempting the certification exam within the assigned course time is also required. Although passing the certification exam is not required to pass this course, the results of the certification exam will be used to determine the final grade in the course. Students already holding a current certification for this course are not eligible to take this course.

Philosophy and Approach:

Self-paced competency based courses are designed to allow students to move through course material as quickly as they like while demonstrating a minimum level of competency on a given topic before they are permitted to move forward in the course. The course is divided into practice exams and other learning activities to help prepare students in the knowledge areas on the certification exams.

Although this is a self-paced course, students must complete at least one (1) review of knowledge area or practice exam per week. Students must also complete all certification practice exams by the end of Week 13 and attempt the Security+ certification exam by the end of Week 14. Once students attempt the Security+ certification exams, no additional work in the course is required. However, if the student did not pass the certification exam on their first attempt, they can continue to study and retake the exam to improve their grade in the course until the end of Week 15. Points will be deducted from the student's overall grade if minimum progress is not made each week or given activity deadlines are not met. However, students are encouraged to move as quickly as they are able and complete all course requirements prior to the 15-week time limit.

Objectives:

The course is designed to help you:

- Acquire and reinforce knowledge and develop understanding of the knowledge domains associated with the CompTIA Security+ certification exams.
- Prepare for and take the CompTIA Security+ certification exams.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify risk
2. Students will be able to participate in risk mitigation activities
3. Provide infrastructure, application, information and operational security
4. Apply security controls to maintain confidentiality, integrity and availability
5. Identify appropriate technologies and products

6. Troubleshoot security events and incidents
7. Operate with an awareness of applicable policies, laws and regulation

Grading:

Students must earn 72% or more in the course to earn a passing grade of "C".

Your grade for the course is based on the points earned by the following criteria at the end of the course:

- Exam score of 750 or more and the exam – 1000 points (100% or "A")
- Exam score between 650 and 749 and practice exams complete with 80+ - 860 points (86% or "B")
- Exam score between 550 and 649 and practice exams complete with 80+ - 760 points (76% or "C")
- Exam score between 450 and 549 and practice exams complete with 80+ - 660 points (66% or "D")
- Exam score below 450 or all quizzes and exams not complete with 80+ - zero points (0% or "F")

Students must earn 550 points or more on the certification exam and have no more than 60 points deducted from their final course score to earn 70% and thus get a "C-."

The grading scale for the course is based on a percentage of points available:

Course Grade Distribution Table

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	92-100%	**C**	72-76.9%
A-	90 - 91.9%	**C-**	70 - 71.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	**D+**	67 - 69.9%
B	82 - 86.9%	**D**	62 - 66.9%
B-	80 - 81.9%	**D-**	60 - 61.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	**F**	0 - 59.9%

Late Work Policy

There is a point deduction penalty for any assignment not completed by their respective due dates. Practice exams and the post assessment exam must be passed with a score of 80% or more prior to their due dates.

> **Note: 10 points will be deducted for a student's overall point total for each chapter quiz completed late and 25 points will be deducted from a student's overall point total for each due date that is missed for assessment exams or practice exams. 10 point per day will be deducted from a student's overall point total for late exam appointment confirmation and late exam results submitted.**

Credit Hour:

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated course learning outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 2-units class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that you will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour in your course. The estimated time expectations for this course are shown below:

Table of Course Hour Allocation

Activity	Hours
Chapter Review	36
Knowledge Domain Review	20
Practice Exams	12
Certification Exams	6
TOTAL	**74**

Tests and Learning Activities:

All chapter tests, practice exams and learning activities can be redone as often as needed to achieve the desired score.

Helpful Tool for Studying:

This class guides you through the CompTIA exam preparation material and that should be your focus. The **Professor Messer videos (https://www.professormesser.com/security-plus/sy0-601/sy0-601-video/sy0-601-comptia-security-plus-course/)** provide a nice supplement and can be helpful as you are in your last few weeks of the course and getting ready for the exam.

Final Exam: Date and Time:

The final in the course is the CompTIA Security+ certification exam and can be taken any time before its due date. All students are required to attempt the certification exam at least once before the end of week 15. Students my retake the certification exam if they do not pass on their first attempt, as long as the attempt is completed by the end of finals week.

Technical Support:

Please contact IT Services (ITS) at 619-849-2222 for technical support if your account gets locked out or you need a password reset. If you call after hours (between 6 pm and 11 pm), and the matter is urgent, you may leave a voice mail message and mark the message as urgent. The on-call technician will respond to you within 30 minutes.

University Mission:

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Department Mission:

The Mathematical, Information, and Computer Sciences department at Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to maintaining a curriculum that provides its students with the tools to be productive, the passion to continue learning, and Christian perspectives to provide a basis for making sound value judgments.

Attendance:

Attendance is expected at each class session. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for the material covered in class and the assignments given that day.

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Because this course is a self-paced online course, the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See **Academic Policies (https://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=52&navoid=2919#Class_Attendance)** in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

Class Enrollment:

It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade of F on the official transcript.

Academic Accommodations:

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It

is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

Students wishing to receive accommodations for the official CompTIA certification exam, must contact CompTIA and request the accommodation themselves through PersonVue at **https://home.pearsonvue.com/test-taker/Test-accommodations.aspx. (https://home.pearsonvue.com/test-taker/Test-accommodations.aspx)** This process can take several weeks so students must begin the process early to seek an accommodation. The university can not assist in the CompTIA accommodation request, it is the student's responsibility to apply directly with PersonVue and to provide the required paperwork.

Academic Honesty:

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Etiquette and Behavior:

Students are expected to actively and positively engage in the adult learning environment. Behaviors that disrupt the classroom environment and interfere with the learning of others are prohibited. Examples of disruptive behavior include talking with other students during a presentation or when others are speaking, texting, gaming, internet browsing, or reading non-course related materials. All cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be turned off at the beginning of class. Tablets and computers are allowed in class for note-taking purposes only, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Should a student's behavior become disruptive to the productivity of the course they will be asked to leave the classroom and not receive credit for attendance.

In the online environment, students are expected to also be actively and positively engaged in an adult learning environment and consider the complexities of engaging in discussions in an online environment. Disagreeing with each other and engaging in debates about ideas is encouraged to better understand each other's ideas and perspectives. Such discussions should never involve personal comments, offensive or inappropriate language, or either aggressive or passive aggressive verbiage.

Students who wish to share feedback about the course, program, PLNU, or any administration, faculty, or staff should not do so within course discussions, assignments, or projects and should meet one-on-

one with the professor or program director. A classroom or an online learning environment is not the proper place to discuss feedback about the university or any university representatives.

Persons not enrolled in the course are not permitted to be present in class. This policy includes family/friends of students and potential students.

When working with PLNU staff, faculty and administrators, and other students, students are expected to communicate and act respectfully. Any aggression or disrespect to any party may result in up to and including suspension from PLNU. See Academic Behavior Policy in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for definitions of behaviors and further policy information.

E-mail and Messages:

It is expected that students regularly use e-mail. The instructor will periodically send you information and updates via e-mail and/or via canvas. In the first week of class you must activate your PLNU e-mail account if you are not currently using it. Please send questions about specific problems or course details to the instructor by posting them in Canvas so that all members of the class can see the response.

State Authorization:

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on **State Authorization (https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures)** to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

Use of Technology

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements, which includes and working computer with the chrome browser and a stable internet connection. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams require a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

Some Tips About This Class:

- Set aside at least one to two hours each week to complete learning sessions.
- Quizzes and assignments can be redone as many times as you like. Maximize your points by redoing assignments that do not receive full credit.
- If you have a question, ***ASK***.

The list of assignment deadlines is listed below.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Aug 31, 2022	Purchase uCertify Access Code	to do: 11:59pm
	Register with CompTIA	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Sep 4, 2022	Lesson 1. Today's Security Professional (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828289)	due by 11:59pm
	Lesson 2. Cybersecurity Threat Landscape (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828298)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 11, 2022	Lesson 3. Malicious Code (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828299)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	Lesson 4. Social Engineering, Physical, and Password Attacks (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828300)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 18, 2022	Lesson 5. Security Assessment and Testing (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828301)	due by 11:59pm
	Lesson 6. Secure Coding (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828302)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 25, 2022	Lesson 7. Cryptography and the Public Key Infrastructure (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828303)	due by 11:59pm
	Lesson 8. Identity and Access Management (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828304)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 2, 2022	Lesson 10. Cloud and Virtualization Security (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828290)	due by 11:59pm
	Lesson 9. Resilience and Physical Security (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828305)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 9, 2022	Lesson 11. Endpoint Security (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828291)	due by 11:59pm
	Lesson 12. Network Security (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828292)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 16, 2022	Lesson 13. Wireless and Mobile Security (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828293)	due by 11:59pm
	Lesson 14. Incident Response (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828294)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 23, 2022	Lesson 15. Digital Forensics (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828295)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	Lesson 16. Security Policies, Standards, and Compliance (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828296)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 30, 2022	Lesson 17. Risk Management and Privacy (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828297)	due by 11:59pm
	Pre-Assessment Exam (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828309)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 6, 2022	Practice Exam A (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828307)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 13, 2022	Practice Exam B (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828308)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 20, 2022	Post Assesment Exam (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828306)	due by 11:59pm
	Exam Instructions	to do: 11:59pm
	Professor Messer Videos	to do: 11:59pm
Tue Nov 22, 2022	Exam Appointment Confirmation (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828287)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 11, 2022	Exam Results (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828288)	due by 11:59pm
	Course Points (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/63258/assignments/828286)	