Point Loma Nazarene University
College of Natural and Social Sciences
Mathematical, Information, and Computer Sciences

CSC 4012: Special Topics (2 units)

Spring 2026

Meeting Location and Times:
Rohr Science 395
TR – 14:55 - 15:50

Final Exam:
Tuesday May 7th 16:30 - 19:00

Instructor:
Professor Noah Spahn
nspahn@pointloma.edu
619 849 2491
RS 210

Books:
- *No textbook is required for this course, but reading will be assigned throughout.*

Course Description:

CSC4012/EGR4012
Study of an area of computer science not otherwise included in the curriculum. Topics are determined by the needs and interest of the students and faculty involved.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Converse in current cyber security topics with confidence and accuracy
- Show familiarity with current DevOps tools not traditionally taught in classrooms
- Navigate and perform essential tasks in Linux environments
- Enter the workforce with a better understanding of career pathways

PLNU 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 is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive 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.

Additional Course Information

Cheating:

Cheating on an exam will result in a 'F' in the class.

In addition, we will draft an academic integrity code of conduct for this class that will be posted on canvas and remain authoritative for the semester.

Missed Classes:
Homework missed due to PLNU activities (i.e., sports teams, choirs, etc), can be turned in the day after the student is back. Missed exams due to emergencies can be made up once the dean of students informs Professor Spahn that PLNU has approved the reason. Non-emergency missed exams will result in a zero. It is the student's responsibility to inform the professor of when they will be gone. Missed class activities, which are due to a non-dean of students' approved emergency, will result in a zero.

Late Assignments:
Late assignments will not be accepted in this class.

Grading:
Grades are based on the number of points accumulated throughout the course with the following weights:

Weekly labs	25%
Midterms	30%
Final Exam	25%
Presentation	5%
Quizzes	5%
Synthesis Project	10%

Grading scale

A	B	C	D	F
A [92.5-100]	B+ [87.5-90]	C+ [77.5-80]	D+ [67.5-70]	F [0-60]
A- [90-92.5]	B [82.5-87.5]	C [72.5-77.5]	D [62.5-67.5]	

	B- [80-82.5]	C- [70-72.5]	D- [60-62.5]	

Final Examination Policy
Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for <u>one</u> of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy
PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

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. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

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 cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

Additional Course Information

Additional PLNU policies and practices that apply to this course can be found at the following link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/11BgAANLOJ9tjt837d24EZ181ukM2qzHF/edit