Mathematical, Information and Computer Sciences Department

School of STEM

## ISS4012 Topics in Information Security

2 Units

*Fall 2025*

**Meeting days/times M 5:30-7:20 pm**

**Meeting location Rohr Science (RS) 265**

**Final Exam: Monday December 15, 2025, 7:30-10:00 pm**

**Instructor Title and Name:**
> **Prof. Darren Bennett**
> **Prof. Macy Dennis**
> **Dr. Maria Zack**

**Phone: 619.849.2458 (Zack)**

**Email:**
> **Prof. Bennett   dbennett@pointloma.edu**
> **Prof. Dennis    mdennis1@pointloma.edu**
> **Dr. Zack        mzack@pointloma.edu**

**Office Location and Office Hours:  by appointment on Zoom**

**PLNU Mission**

**To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

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.

## Course Description

ISS4012 Topics in Information Security (2)

Study of an area of information security otherwise included in the curriculum. Topics are determined by the needs and interest of the students and faculty involved. May be repeated up to a total of four (4) units.

Prerequisite(s): CSC 3014 or consent of instructor.

## Program and Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to apply their technical knowledge to solve problems.

2. Students will be able to speak about their work with precision, clarity and organization.

3. Students will be able to write about their work with precision, clarity and organization.

4. Students will collaborate effectively in teams.

5. Students will be able to gather relevant information, examine information and form a conclusion based on that information.

6. Students will be able to apply technical tools to cyber security problems.

## Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

There are no text books for this class

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

## Course Credit Hour Information

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-unit class delivered over 16 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 75 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

## Assessment and Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

- **Homework**: Homework will be assigned each week and will be due before class on Monday. The lowest homework score will be dropped.

- **Final Project:** You will be part of a small group working on designing a new exercise for the cyber security test environment. You will be expected to provide a set of instructions using a specific template and give a presentation of your exercise. This has two components: Pre-Project Work and the Final Project.

- **Testing Report on Projects:** You will be testing other people's exercises (see final project above) and providing feedback on those exercises.

- **Late work will not be accepted** without prior consent or a well-documented emergency.

The point distribution is:

- 40% Homework
- 10% Final Project Pre-Work
- 35% Final Project
- 15% Testing Reports on Projects

### Sample Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

| 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. The final examination schedule is posted on the Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules site. 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 one 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.

Because the final examination is the presentation of a group project, we will ask you to move a different final exam if the need arises.

## Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas.  Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) is prohibited in this course for any aspect of your work, including idea generation, drafting, editing, or final submissions. This course is designed to assess your independent critical thinking, writing, and research skills without the assistance of AI technologies. Violations of this policy will be treated as breaches of academic integrity.

## 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

**Assignments At-A-Glance**

| Date | Details | Due |
|------|---------|-----|
| Mon Sep 15, 2025 | Assignment [Homework 1](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| Mon Sep 22, 2025 | Assignment [Homework 2](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| Mon Sep 29, 2025 | Assignment [Homework 3](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| Mon Oct 6, 2025 | Assignment [Homework 4](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| Mon Oct 13, 2025 | Assignment [Homework 5](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| | Assignment [Homework 5: Final Project Research](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| Mon Oct 20, 2025 | Assignment [Homework 6](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| Mon Oct 27, 2025 | Assignment [Project Check-In Round 1](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| Mon Nov 3, 2025 | Assignment [Homework 8](#) | due by 5pm |
| Mon Nov 10, 2025 | Assignment [Homework 9](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| | Assignment [Project Check-In Round 2](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| Mon Nov 17, 2025 | Assignment [Project Check-In Round 3](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| | Assignment [Homework 10](#) | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon Nov 24, 2025 | Assignment [Project Check-In Round 4](#) | due by 5:30pm |
| | Assignment [Project Check-In Round 5](#) | due by 7:20pm |
| | Assignment [Homework 11](#) | due by 11:59pm |

| Date | Details | Due |
|------|---------|-----|
| Mon Dec 8, 2025 | Assignment [December 8 Presentations Hand Outs](#) | due by 3pm |
| | Assignment [December 8 Presentations Slide Deck](#) | due by 3pm |
| | Assignment [Checking of December 8 Final Lab Projects](#) | due by 7:30pm |
| Mon Dec 15, 2025 | Assignment [December 15 Presentations Hand Outs](#) | due by 3pm |
| | Assignment [December 15 Presentations Slide Deck](#) | due by 3pm |
| | Assignment [Team Member Ratings](#) | due by 7:30pm |
| | Assignment [Checking of December 15 Final Lab Projects](#) | due by 10pm |
| | Assignment [Roll Call Attendance](#) | |