



**Point Loma Nazarene University
CIT4062 Topics in Cyber Security
Summer 2026 (2 units)**

Time and Place: This class is online

Instructor: Maria Zack, Ph.D.

Phone Number: 619. 849.2458

E-mail: mzack@pointloma.edu

Office Hours: Upon Request

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to build on the previous computer science and cyber security classes. The course will focus on applications of cyber security programs and process via case studies and research projects.

Prerequisite(s): [CIT 3014](#) or equivalent, and [CIT 3024](#) or equivalent, and consent of instructor.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Point Loma Nazarene University (ADC) graduate is prepared for expanded roles within his or her organization through enhanced abilities to:

1. Identify and evaluate information technology infrastructure necessary to meet an organization's business needs.
2. Develop, plan and evaluate appropriate processes for managing information systems and information technology projects.
3. Design, develop, and evaluate software solutions to meet an organization's business needs.
4. Apply their technical knowledge to solve problems.

5. Speak about their work with precision, clarity and organization (Oral Communication)
6. Write about their work with precision, clarity and organization (Written Communication)
7. Collaborate effectively in teams.
8. Identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and cite information for the task at hand (Information Literacy).
9. Gather relevant information, examine information and form a conclusion based on that information (Critical Thinking).
10. Understand and create arguments supported by quantitative evidence, and they can clearly communicate those arguments in a variety of formats (Quantitative Reasoning).
11. Understand the professional, ethical, legal, security and social issues and responsibilities with the implementation and use of information technology.
12. Graduates will be prepared for:
 - careers that use information technology in business, industry, government and the non-profit sector; and
 - graduate study in fields related to information technology.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following student learning outcomes will be met in this course:

1. Students will develop a broad knowledge of key challenges and strategies in managing the security of an organizations information infrastructure.
2. Students will develop an outline for their senior capstone project.

an organizations inform

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

There are no required texts for this. The readings are included in the online class.

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. 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

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their course work. The time expectations for this course are shown below:

Category	Time Expectation in Hours
Required Reading	27
Discussions	9
Assignments	39
Total Hours	75

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](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Your work will be described each week in the weekly Module. Most weeks you will have a warm-up exercise, reading, an assignment and a discussion. A few weeks in the semester you will have specific assignments that are the building blocks for creating an outline for your senior capstone project (to be completed in CIT4081). The grade weights are as follows:

Warm Up Exercises	15%
Activities Based on Reading	44%
Discussions	10%
Final Project Work	30%

Surveys	1%
Total	100%

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

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%

Students must complete the required program hours in the major (program) from Point Loma Nazarene University with an overall 2.00 grade point average.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted by the due dates. There will be a 10% reduction of possible points for **each day** an assignment is late and assignments will **not be** accepted for credit four days after the due date. If missing assignments result in the failure to meet learning outcomes, students may receive a letter grade reduction on the final grade in addition to the loss of points for missing work. Assignments will be considered late if posted after the due date and time using Pacific Standard Time. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Sunday night, the last day of class.

Exceptions for extenuating circumstances must be pre-approved by the instructor and the program director.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU GENERAL POLICIES

PLNU policies that apply to this class can be found [at this linkLinks to an external site.](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

The table below lists course assignments and their due dates. Click on any assignment to review it.

Quick Links

[Week 1](#) | [Week 2](#) | [Week 3](#) | [Week 4](#) | [Week 5](#) | [Week 6](#) | [Week 7](#)

[Week 8](#) | [Week 9](#) | [Week 10](#) | [Week 11](#) | [Week 12](#) | [Week 13](#) | [Week 14](#)

[Netiquette Guidelines](#) | [Help Resources & Technical Support](#) | [Technology & System Requirements](#) | [Canvas GuidesLinks to an external site.](#)

Course Summary:

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Tue May 12, 2026	Quiz Academic Honesty Verification Statement	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz State Authorization Verification Form	due by 11:59pm
	Page Class Overview - PLEASE READ THIS	to do: 11:59pm
Wed May 13, 2026	Assignment Week 1: Warm Up Exercise	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 17, 2026	Assignment Week 1: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 18, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 1: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 20, 2026	Assignment Week 2: Warm Up Exercise	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 1: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Sun May 24, 2026	Assignment Week 2: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 25, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 2: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 27, 2026	Assignment Week 3: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 2: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sun May 31, 2026	Assignment Week 3: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 1, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 3: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 3, 2026	Assignment Week 4: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 3: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Jun 7, 2026	Assignment Week 4: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Week 4: PAPER - Possible Research Topics	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 8, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 4: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 10, 2026	Assignment Week 5: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 4: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Jun 14, 2026	Assignment Week 5: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jun 15, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 5: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 17, 2026	Assignment Week 6: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 5: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Jun 21, 2026	Assignment Week 6: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 22, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 6: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 24, 2026	Assignment Week 7: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 6: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Jun 28, 2026	Assignment Week 7: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 29, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 7: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 1, 2026	Assignment Week 8: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 7: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Jul 5, 2026	Quiz Mid-Course Survey	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Week 8: PAPER - Assignment for Research Preparation	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 15, 2026	Assignment Week 9: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 19, 2026	Assignment Week 9: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jul 20, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 9: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 22, 2026	Assignment Week 10: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 9: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Jul 26, 2026	Assignment Week 10: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jul 27, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 10: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 29, 2026	Assignment Week 11: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 10: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Aug 2, 2026	Assignment Week 11: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 3, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 11: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Aug 5, 2026	Assignment Week 12: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 11: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Aug 9, 2026	Assignment Week 12: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 10, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 12: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Aug 12, 2026	Assignment Week 13: Warm Up Exercises	due by 11:59pm
	Page Week 12: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Sun Aug 16, 2026	Assignment Week 13: Assignment Based on Reading	due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 17, 2026	Discussion Topic Week 13: Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Wed Aug 19, 2026	Page Week 13: Discussion Response Reminder	to do: 11:59pm
Sat Aug 29, 2026	Assignment End-of-Course Evaluation	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Week 14: PAPER Outline Assignment	due by 11:59pm