

Computer Science 6204
Usable Security
Fall, 2009

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Office Hours: By arrangement.

Class Web Page: <http://courses.cs.vt.edu/cs6204/UsableSecurity>

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Computer Science or cognate department or permission of instructor. A strong interest in the subject matter and a determined willingness to become deeply engaged in the readings and discussion are more important than any particular prior coursework. A self-assessment can be done by examining the papers shown on the course web site (follow the Calendar link in the left sidebar). Talk with the course instructor if you have questions about your preparation.

Readings: This is a reading and discussion intensive class. Approximately sixty (60) technical papers will be required reading, equivalent to between 4 and 5 papers per week. These papers should be readable with normal difficulty for a technical paper. All readings are available as PDF files following links on the class web Calendar.

Presentations: Each participant is expected to read, summarize, present, and lead the discussion of a related set of papers on one or more of the course topics. The course Calendar lists the topics and the associated readings. The below Overview summarizes this information.

Project: Each participant must complete a term project. A project may be an individual or small group effort. A number of projects will be identified but participants may also undertake projects that are within the subject matter of the course and approved in advance.

Grading: Grades will be assigned based on the class presentation(s), class participation, and the term project.

Honor Code: All work is conducted under the rules of the university Graduate Honor Code. This code and other relevant policies are described in detail on the class web pages.

Overview

Section	Topics	Papers	Date(s)
Introduction	Course and Topic Overview	4	August 25
	Usability Studies	2	August 27
	Human factors and engineering principles	2	September 1
	Privacy in a ubiquitous world	2	September 3
Web Privacy and Security	Privacy preferences	2	September 8
	Policy authoring	2	September 10
	Privacy and Trust Frameworks/Systems	2	September 15
	Automatic Trust Negotiation	2	September 17
	Semantic Web: Foundations	3	September 22 September 24
	Semantic Web: Standards and policies	3	September 29 October 1
Ubiquitous Systems	Smart phones	4	October 6 October 8
	Medical applications	3	October 13
	Location disclosure	2	October 15
	Principles of context-aware systems	3	October 20
	Context-aware toolkits	2	October 22
Privacy and Trust	Multimedia communication	2	October 27
	Context and Place	5	October 29 November 3
	Social Factors	6	November 5 November 10
Design	Guidelines	4	November 12
	Spatial interfaces	2	November 17
	Visualization	3	November 19
Thanksgiving Break Week - No Classes			November 24
Project Presentations (final exam period also used if needed)			December 1,3,8