



RIST400 – Information Security Master Course Syllabus

Course Overview (QM Standards 1.2)

Course description:

This course provides foundation knowledge in information security, including protecting information assets, risk mitigation strategies, responses to security incidents, and designing secure systems. It introduces the management, technical and administrative aspects of Information Security and Assurance to provide a foundation for understanding the key issues associated with protecting information assets, determining the levels of protection and response to security incidents, and designing a consistent, reasonable information security system, with appropriate intrusion detection and reporting features.

Course Goals and Objectives:

- Identify and discuss information assets, threats and current security issues.
- Plan for intruders, risk and an information security.
- Describe legal and other implications of security and privacy issues.
- Evaluate software tools to manage security.
- Perform a basic security review.

Pre-Requisites (QM Standard 1.6)

No pre-requisites are required for this course.

Minimum Technical Requirements and Online Resources (QM Standards 1.5 & 1.7)

In addition to a web browser (preferable Firefox) that is Blackboard compatible, you will need the following software in order to complete the activities in this class:

1. Word processing package capable of reading and creating .doc, .docx or rich text formatted (rtf) documents.
2. *Adobe Acrobat Reader*: If you do not have *Adobe Acrobat Reader*, you can download it free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

3. **PDF Creator Software:** If you are using a MAC or do not have software capable of saving a file as a .doc or .docx file and do not have the capability on your campus to print files to PDF, you can download a free version of *CutePDF* at <http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/writer.asp> This software installs a virtual printer on your PC that allows you to print files to the PDF format.
4. **Virus Protection Software:** This course requires you to download and upload files from your PC. Virus protection software protects your computer and my computer.

Online Resources: This course makes use of many online resources. I have made every effort to make sure the links I have are up-to-date. However, due to the changing nature of the web, you may find that a resource is temporarily unavailable or has been removed. If this should happen, please send me an email and I will find an alternative resource or modify the assignment accordingly.

Instructor Information (QM Standards 1.8 & 5.3)

Individual instructors complete this information.

Virtual Office Hours

I am available in my virtual office by appointment only. Send me an email to set up an appointment.

Personal Commitment

My personal commitments to you as a participant include:

I will reply to course mail messages within 24 hours;

I will read all discussion postings and will reply where appropriate within 3 days

I will acknowledge my receipt of every course mail message immediately upon reading it. If I am unable to respond to the request or concern at the time of initial reply, I will give you an estimated time for my next reply.

If I am going to be away from the course space for more than a day or two, I will send a message to you indicating the length of my absence.

I will regularly update information regarding due dates in the course announcements.

Optional/Required Course Materials (QM Standard 4.6)

All required readings and content are included in each of the modules.

Grading Policy (QM Standard 3.2)

Each module consists of a series of assignments, discussions and/or quizzes, each having specific point values. For each assignment or discussion you will be given the rubric or grading criteria from which you will be evaluated.

Grading

Discussion Board Participation	110 points possible
Assignments and Case Study	250 points possible
Quizzes	100 points possible
Total	460 points possible

Use the following table to determine your final letter grade:

Total Points Earned	Final Letter Grade
414 - 460	A
368 - 413	B
322 - 367	C
276 - 321	D
Less than 276	F

Module Objectives and Assessments (QM Standard 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, 5.1)

Module 1*

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- **Define basic information security terms and concepts.** [M1S1: Self-assessment, M1A1: Current Issues Discussion, M1A2: Security Survey Assignment, M1A3: Quiz]
- **Identify threats, attacks and vulnerabilities common to organizations.** [M1S1: Self-assessment, M1A1: Current Issues Discussion, M1A2: Security Survey Assignment, M1A3: Quiz]
- **Discuss current information security issues.** [M1S1: Self-assessment, M1A1: Current Issues Discussion, M1A2: Security Survey Assignment, M1A3: Quiz]
- **Identify the appropriate credentials for a career in information security.** [M1S1: Self-assessment, M1A1: Current Issues Discussion, M1A2: Security Survey Assignment, M1A3: Quiz]

***Note that the Introduction Discussion is located in the Orientation.**

Module 2

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- **Define the process to identify, assess and control. [M2S1: Self-assessment, M2A1: Career Planning Discussion, M2A2: Natural Disasters Discussion, M2A3: Risk Management Plan Case Study Assignment, M2A4: Quiz]**
- **Describe key physical security considerations. [M2S1: Self-assessment, M2A1: Career Planning Discussion, M2A2: Natural Disasters Discussion, M2A3: Risk Management Plan Case Study Assignment, M2A4: Quiz]**
- **Define contingency planning, incident response planning, disaster recovery planning and business continuity planning. [M2A1: Career Planning Discussion, M2A3: Risk Management Plan Case Study Assignment, M2A4: Quiz]**

Module 3

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- **Explain how firewalls and content filtering technologies, VPNs, encryption, cryptography, and stenography work. [M3S1: Self-assessment, M3A1: Online Tools Assignment, M3A2: Security Case Study, M3A3: Quiz]**
- **Evaluate various security management tools. [M3S1: Self-assessment, M3A1: Online Tools Assignment, M3A2: Security Case Study, M3A3: Quiz]**

Module 4

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- **Describe the components of a security review. [M4S1: Self-assessment, M4A1: Security Plan Discussion, M4A2: Security Plan Reflections Discussion, M4A3: Security Review Assignment, M4A4: Quiz]**
- **Explain areas requiring information security maintenance. [M4S1: Self-assessment, M4A1: Security Plan Discussion, M4A2: Security Plan Reflections Discussion, M4A3: Security Review Assignment, M4A4: Quiz]**
- **Perform a basic security review. [M4S1: Self-assessment, M4A1: Security Plan Discussion, M4A2: Security Plan Reflections Discussion, M4A3: Security Review Assignment, M4A4: Quiz]**