

# Tentative Syllabus

Here are the planned topics for each week. This is tentative, because I may go slower (or faster) than this schedule shows, and I may add some topics and remove others. If there is something you want to hear about and it is not listed here, please ask me about it; I'm very willing to change topics based on class interest!

**Week 1: September 29–September 30 (1 class, discussion section)**

**Topics:** What is computer security? Policies, mechanisms, and assurance.

**Week 2: October 3–October 7 (2 classes, discussion section)**

**Topics:** Why are programs so touchy? Bad, and good, programming practices.

**Week 3: October 10–October 14 (2 classes, discussion section)**

**Topics:** How do you scramble information? ciphers and what “PKI” means.

**Week 4: October 17–October 21 (2 classes, discussion section)**

**Topics:** Who are you, and how can you prove it? Identity and authentication.

**Week 5: October 24–October 28 (2 classes, discussion section)**

**Topics:** How do I keep bad folks out? Access control on a system.

**Week 6: October 31–November 4 (2 classes, discussion section)**

**Topics:** Why doesn't a firewall get hot? Controlling access to networks.

**Note:** midterm scheduled for November 1

**Week 7: November 7–November 11 (2 classes, discussion section)**

**Topics:** Why can't I vote, or buy a house, over the Internet? E-voting and e-recording.

**Week 8: November 14–November 18 (2 classes, discussion section)**

**Topics:** Are computer programs alive? Computer viruses, worms, and their ilk.

**Week 9: November 21–November 25 (1 class)**

**Topics:** Is the web safe? The World Wide Web and security.

**Week 10: November 28–December 2 (2 classes, discussion section)**

**Topics:** How do you make things safe? Basic assurance and validation

**Week 11: December 5–December 9 (2 classes, discussion section)**

**Topics:** Miscellaneous