

## Instructor

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Dr. Kent Seamons  
Office: 2230 TMCB  
Phone: 801-422-3722  
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Office hours: by appointment

Winter 2015 Class Meetings: 134 TMCB Tu/Th 1:35-2:50

Prerequisites: CS 465

## Objectives

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- Develop a deep understanding of some state-of-the-art computer security research topics
- Improve critical analysis skills
- Improve technical writing skills
- Improve verbal presentation skills
- Gain experience identifying a research topic
  - Identify and understand the research related to a specific security topic
  - Identify an open research question related to your topic
  - Write a survey paper
    - Focus on what is the problem and what have others done to solve it
    - Propose some new way(s) to solve the problem
    - Use the MS thesis proposal five-question outline from the graduate handbook as a guide

## Learning Activities

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- Regular writing assignments
  - 1 page, 11 pt font, 8×11 paper, pdf format (300-400 words)
  - Submit online using Learning Suite for Dr. Seamons to review
  - Suggestion: solicit one external review before submitting an assignment
- Regular reviews of other student's writing assignments
  - Constructive feedback on both content and presentation
  - Recommended reading: Elements of Style
- Class presentations
  - Research papers
- Individual survey paper
  - Deliverable: research proposal/survey paper (4000-5000 words)
  - See thesis proposal guidelines in graduate handbook
  - Verbal presentation during final exam time slot

## Guidelines for writing paper reviews

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- Length – 300–400 words
- Format – pdf
- What is the key contribution of the paper. Summarize the main points (1 paragraph)
- Discuss strengths (1 paragraph)
- Discuss weaknesses (1–2 paragraphs)
  - This should be your primary focus
- What questions do you have about the paper?
- What recommendations do you have to improve the paper or build on the results
- If you run short of things to talk about, focus on summarizing the paper concisely

## Organization

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- Students are expected to assume primary responsibility for learning
  - Unstructured and self-directed
- Time commitment: 9 hour/week average (including class time)

## Grade Distribution

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- Grades will be based on the following (tentative) distribution:
  - 45% Survey paper
  - 45% Homework
  - 10% Class participation (discussion, peer review)

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