Purpose
This is an introductory graduate seminar course in systems assurance. It introduces students to the Systems Assurance program, and takes a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to the area. Topics within the course include core technologies, management and policy, ethics, and public policy. The goals are 1) to acquaint students with the multi-disciplinary aspects of systems assurance, 2) to expose students to current research topics in the area, and 3) to provide a basis for the remainder of the Systems Assurance curriculum embodied in the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Systems Assurance (CASSA) and Information Technology, Policy, and Management (ITPM) certificate programs.

The course comprises a mixture of lectures, outside speakers, discussions, and classroom presentations by students. Over the course of the semester, approximately one hour per week will be lecture, one hour will be presentations, and one hour will be lab work conducted in the Center for Systems Assurance/Systems Assurance Institute lab in 3-210 CST.

Text
There are two texts for this course:


Additional resources will be provided over the course of the semester.

Grading Policy
The grade for this course will be assigned based on:

1. Oral presentations (40%)

2. Attendance (10%)
3. Homework (10%)

4. Final project (40%)

All of the above percentages are approximate. There will be no final exam in the course; it is replaced by a written project summary and presentation describing the final project.

Late Policy
All assignments must be turned in by the due date. There will be no extensions for any assignment. However, each student will have 72 “free late hours” to spend throughout the semester. It is up to you when you use them. I encourage you not to spend them all early in the semester, as scheduling conflicts, disasters, etc. will likely arise later and you’ll want them then.

Honor Policy
Students are expected to do their own work. Unless explicitly given permission, you should not work with other students on your assignments. Discussion of concepts is fine, but your work should be your own. Violation of this policy is grounds for failure from the course.

Class Notes
I will make my notes available on-line. The URL for the course are:

http://www.hpdc.syr.edu/~chapin/cis583
http://www.hpdc.syr.edu/~chapin/cse583

This does not relieve you of the responsibility of reading the books or knowing their contents. While I will make a good-faith effort to have the notes available before class, you should not rely on this as a substitute for paying attention and taking notes. I give you these notes to relieve you of the drudgery of making them and to free your minds to concentrate in class.

Mailing Lists
For your convenience, and to turn in your assignments, there is a mailing list at cis583ta@hpdc.syr.edu (the naming is historical; we don’t have any TA for this course). This is a one-way pipe from you to us; we maintain a separate one-way pipe from us to you that we will use for disseminating important announcements, answers to questions, etc.