



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
& SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Sociology



CISO
XC



NEXUS CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2026

APRIL 2, 2026
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS



NEXUS CONFERENCE OFFICERS



Helen Potts, PhD
NEXUS Director,
Conference Chair



Natália Heringer, MA
Academic Program
Coordinator



Zaira Garay
NEXUS Program
Intern



River McFarlane
Student Conference
Operations Coordinator



Helen.Potts@unt.edu

CISO XC FOUNDERS



Cecil Pineda, CISO
R1 RCM



Jaimin Shah, CISO
Apex Fintech Solutions



Randy Potts*, CISO
Real Time Resolutions

*Top 100 CISOs in the
US & Canada, 2024
(security current)

Our Mission

NEXUS -Network for Exploring the Intersection of Humans & Cybercrime

NEXUS bolsters an unparalleled intersection of students, cybersecurity professionals, scholars, and industry leaders in the creation of innovative industry-driven research focused uniquely on human and social behavior.

Our mission is to advance synergistic, interdisciplinary, and multifaceted research in cybercrime, cybersecurity, cyberterrorism, analytics, and artificial intelligence, answering cutting-edge challenges with research-driven solutions guided by leading cybersecurity professionals.

Through meaningful networking, mentorship, and knowledge exchange among students, scholars, industry leaders and cybersecurity professionals we strive to cultivate innovation, strengthen collaboration, and drive impactful responses to tomorrow's evolving security threats.

Join NEXUS, the forefront of cyber innovation!



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PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Presented at the CISO XC DFW Conference - Oct. 2025

1. "Over-Trust vs. Over-Surveillance: *The Politics of Loyalty in Modern Organizations*",
Spencer Austin, MA - Doctoral Student in History at SUNY Stonybrook
2. "Cryptocurrency: *Losses & Crimes*", Jon Browning - Undergraduate Student in
Sociology at UNT & Helen Potts, PhD
3. "Algorithms & Adultization: *A Case Study on Digital Risks to Minors*", Natália
Heringer MA - Doctoral Student in Sociology at UNT
4. "Cybercrime Community: How "Hanging Out" Online Facilitates Organized Crime",
River McFarlane - Honors Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT
5. "PTSD/S, Stress, and Burnout in CISOs: *The Impact of Strain and Resilience in
Cybersecurity*", Marley Nelson - Honors Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT
6. "Digital Fraud and Aging: *Identity Theft, Financial Consequences, and Coping
Strategies among Older Americans*", Momna Rani, M Phil - Doctoral Student in
Sociology at UNT & Helen Potts PhD
7. "Implications of Artificial Intelligence-Based Suicide Prevention: *Perceptions of
Trust from Private vs. Public Use*" Evan Welch - Undergraduate Student in
Sociology at UNT

Presented at the International Organization of Social
Sciences and Behavioral Research - March 2025

8. "Cybercrimes: *Cryptocurrency, NFTs, & Generative AI*", Jon Browning - Undergraduate
Student in Sociology at UNT & Helen Potts, PhD * awarded Best Paper at conference



SCHOLARSHIPS

**Endowed scholarship
started by CISO XC in
a \$40,000 donation!**

Join CISO XC supporting
undergraduate, master, and
doctoral students and faculty in
building connections and
industry-driven research
connecting cybersecurity, AI,
analytics, and human behavior.



NEXUS INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL



Randy Potts, CISO
Real Time Resolutions



Jon Brickey, PhD CISO
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Scout Motors



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United Airlines

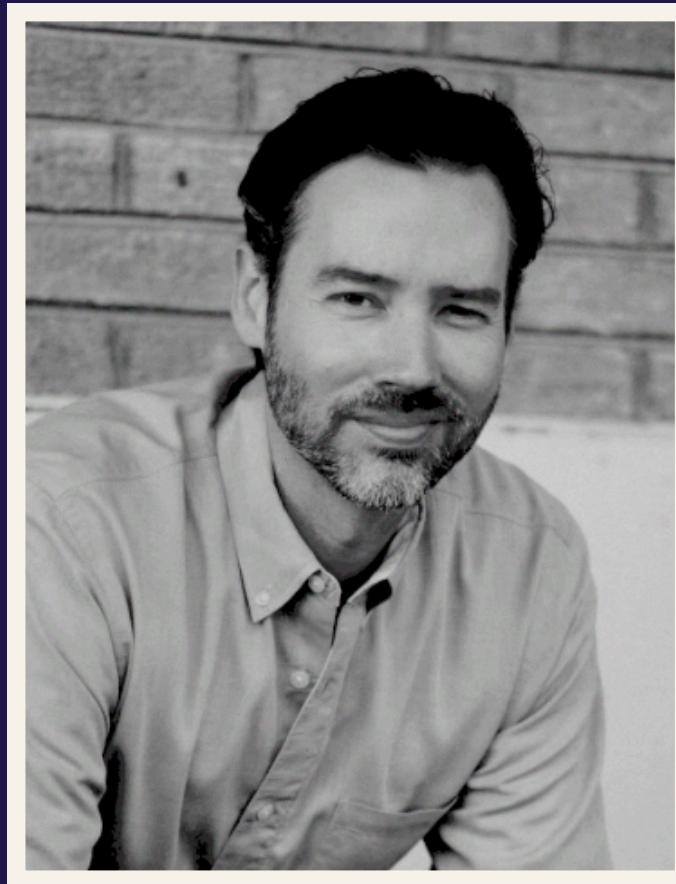


Jay Taylor, IS Advisor
Retired (VISA)

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Taylor Moore
Former CIA Intelligence Officer
& Department of Defense consultant
Author
TaylorMooreBooks.com



David Venable*
Former NSA Intelligence Officer,
Chairman & President of the Institute for
Strategic Risk and Security
*one of the most influential people in
cybersecurity, 2019 (*Security Magazine*)
ISRS.NGO



Michel Fathi, PhD
Assistant Professor,
Information Technology
& Decision Sciences,
UNT



Melissa Gosdin, PhD
Qualitative Research Analyst,
Center for Healthcare Policy &
Research, UC Davis



Wendy Watson, JD, PhD
Assistant Teaching Professor,
Criminal Justice & Criminology,
Ball State University

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



De'Amber Bullard
Outreach & Testing Supervisor,
Kind Clinic



S.R. Allen
Dallas Police Department

1st NEXUS CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CONFERENCE

- NEXUS Inaugural Conference
- Welcoming students, academics, and cyber professionals
- Opportunities for networking, mentorship, and collaboration
- Topics include (but are not limited to):
 - Analytics & data science
 - Artificial Intelligence & machine learning
 - Criminology - theories, victimology, offender behavior, etc.
 - Cyberbullying, online harassment, doxxing, & deep fakes
 - Cybersecurity - policy, law, & ethics
 - Cybersecurity - education, awareness, & public engagement
 - Cyberterrorism, extremism, & radicalization
 - Global & geopolitical perspectives
 - Law enforcement, cybercrime investigation, & digital forensics
 - Psychology - mental health, behavior, & motivation, etc.
 - Sociology - social behavior, social networks, media, mental health, & norms, etc.



When:

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Where:

Gateway Center
801 N Texas Blvd
The University of North Texas
Denton, TX 76201

CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR COURSE & CERTIFICATE



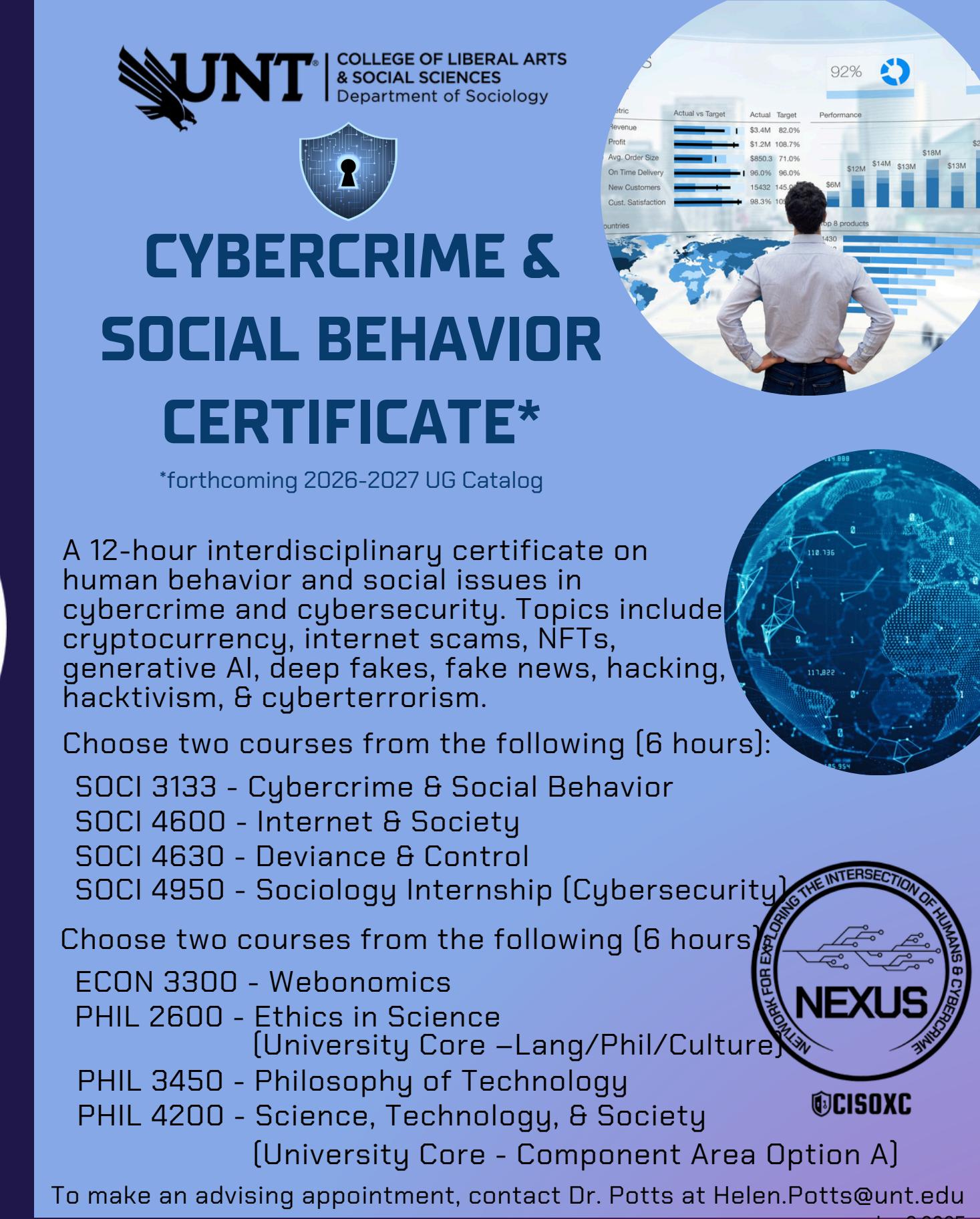
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SPRING 2026
SOCI 4260: CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR
3 CREDIT HOURS

DR. HELEN POTTS M/W/F 11-11:50AM

- Investigate the social and human dimensions of cybercrime.
- Hear from guest speakers in law enforcement, hacking, and information security.
- Examine the typology and impact of cybercrime. Topics:
 - cryptocurrency
 - NFTs
 - internet scams
 - generative AI
 - deep fakes
 - social engineering
 - fake news
 - hacking
 - hacktivism
 - cyberterrorism
- Direct focus will highlight issues of power, inequality, race, class, gender, age, deviance and geopolitical aspects molding both victimology and threat actors in cyberspace.

hp 10.2025



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CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CERTIFICATE*

*forthcoming 2026-2027 UG Catalog

A 12-hour interdisciplinary certificate on human behavior and social issues in cybercrime and cybersecurity. Topics include cryptocurrency, internet scams, NFTs, generative AI, deep fakes, fake news, hacking, hacktivism, & cyberterrorism.

Choose two courses from the following (6 hours):

- SOCI 3133 - Cybercrime & Social Behavior
- SOCI 4600 - Internet & Society
- SOCI 4630 - Deviance & Control
- SOCI 4950 - Sociology Internship (Cybersecurity)

Choose two courses from the following (6 hours)

- ECON 3300 - Webonomics
- PHIL 2600 - Ethics in Science
(University Core –Lang/Phil/Culture)
- PHIL 3450 - Philosophy of Technology
- PHIL 4200 - Science, Technology, & Society
(University Core - Component Area Option A)

To make an advising appointment, contact Dr. Potts at Helen.Potts@unt.edu



Join the forefront of cyber innovation with NEXUS!

INQUIRIES

Our website can be found at
<https://sociology.unt.edu/nexus/nexus.html>
Please reach out to helen.potts@unt.edu for
event information, sponsorship details,
logistics, and other information.

