

## Midterm paper assignment for COMP204/INST290, Spring 2013

For the purposes of this assignment, imagine that you are an aide working for the US House of Representatives [Armed Services Committee](#). The chairperson of the committee has asked you to prepare a short paper (between 1000 and 1500 words, which is about three double-spaced pages) which will be given to committee members as background reading. The objective of the paper is to answer the following question: *“To what extent is it possible for the US to deter cyber-attacks by its adversaries?”* The paper should provide specific examples and detailed explanation, justifying your answer to this question.

For this paper, you are not required to perform research beyond the readings assigned for class. Your paper should, however, contain multiple quotations from multiple readings. The readings you cite should be incorporated in an APA-style bibliography and the citations themselves should also follow APA style, as in the following example:

As remarked by Clark and Knake (2010), the electricity grid is “the clearest example of the dependency and the vulnerability brought on by computer controls” (p. 98). However, it should be noted that “an attack on one vulnerable sector could seriously damage other sectors” (Kugler, 2009, p. 313).

As stated above, the audience of your paper is members of the House Armed Services Committee. Therefore, you should not assume the reader is familiar with information security or cyber warfare – give clear definitions and explanations of information security concepts.

The paper will be graded according to the following rubric:

- Content (50%): Does the paper provide a clear answer to the question? Is the answer supported by multiple examples? Is the answer supported by detailed explanation? Are there sufficient references to and quotations from primary sources?
- Clarity (30%): Is the writing clear and easy to understand? Does the paper flow in a logical progression? Is the answer to the question summarized clearly at the start and end of the document?
- Correctness (20%): Is all grammar and punctuation correct? Are the bibliography and citations correctly formatted? Is the length of the document appropriate?

Any reasonable font, spacing and formatting may be used. Please submit your document in any reasonable file format (e.g. PDF, Word) to Moodle by the start of class on the due date.