UNT: CSE: Fall/2026

# CSCE 4010 – Social Issues in Computing

| **Class:** | **Instructor:** |
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| 4010-501 | **Dr. Asif Baba** |
| | Office: E245E |
| | Email: asif.baba@unt.edu |
| | Office Hours: Mondays: 12- 1:00PM |
| | Link: https://unt.zoom.us/j/86783463939 |
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| | **TAs/IAs/Graders** |
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## Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

**Course Description**

The effect of computer science and engineering on the home and the workplace, with emphasis on the role of the computer professional in modern society.

**Course Prerequisites**

CSCE 3600; Outside Department: Junior standing and advised from the Engineering Advising.

**Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes)**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the social responsibilities in all areas of computing.
2. Explain the need for professional ethics.
3. Generate an effective written communication incorporating topics related to social and ethical issues in computing.
4. Demonstrate teamwork skills on a project for a topic related to a social or ethical issue in computing.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary issues in computing.

## Required Textbook

Baase, Sara and Henry, Timothy. *The Gift of Fire: Social, Legal and Ethic l Issues of Computing Technology* (5th Ed). Pearson, 2018. ISBN-13: 9780137501946 (e-text) / 978-0134615271 (print) https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/gift-of-fire-a-social-legal-and-ethical-issues-for-computing-technology/P200000003177/9780137501946

## Course Assessment

**Class Evaluation & Survey:**
Student participation in this class can be counted from the volume of student work on Canvas. In this class there are 2 surveys for ABET accreditation and class evaluation with one more short survey about student majors. Student are expected to complete all these surveys to get up to 3% of total as bonus in this class.

**Discussions:**
Discussion are methods for the online forum between students, instructor and TAs/IAs. Topics will be assigned for students led discussions that will include short literature related to and in support of the assigned topic in the social and ethical issues of computing. Students are expected to post a response to the assigned discussion topic as well as respond to other students' postings. Rubrics will be provided for the evaluation of the discussions.

**Quizzes:**
Generally, quizzes will be given based on the readings. Quizzes will test students' knowledge on the most important aspects of the readings only.

**Written Assignments (Essays):**
Written Assignments (Essays) are designed to engage students in their learning, so students can begin to apply the reading principles in practice and tailor them to given cases of problems and issues in computing technology. Assignments are to be turned in individually, although students are encouraged to work together extensively. Rubrics will be provided for the evaluation of the assignments.

**Term Paper and Presentation:**
Term paper is required to help students to develop teamwork skills and to investigate a current development in technology that will have impact on our lives. Students are divided into groups, each of 2 to 4 students, and each group will report on its research with a paper and presentation.

## Grading

Grades are determined by a simple points system. The expected distribution of points is given below, with the exact scale determined by percent given for the discussions, assignments, quizzes, and exams.

| Assessment Category | Points | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Discussions** *(9 discussions – 10 points each)* | **90** | **20%** |
| **Quizzes** *(9 quizzes – 16 points each)* | **144** | **30%** |
| **Written Assignments** *(3 assignments – 12 points each)* | **36** | **20%** |
| **Term paper & Presentation** *(paper – 35 points, presentation – 15 points)* | **50** | **30%** |
| **Total** | **320** | **100%** |

**Grading Scale**

Grading scale in this class will be as follows:

**A** = 900-1000, **B** = 800-899, **C** = 700-799, **D** = 600-699, & **F** = 500-599

**Late Submission Policy:**

Late work will not be accepted in this course. All work turned in after the deadline may lose a percentage of their graded points according to the following schedule::

On time : **0%,** 1-3 days : **10%,** 4-7 days : **20%,** 8-14 days : **40%,** > 14 days : **100%**

## Course Requirements/Schedule

| Module/Weeks | Readings/Resources<br>(Refer to other resources on Canvas) | Activities/Evaluation<br>(Refer to due dates on Canvas) |
|---|---|---|
| **Module 1:**<br>**Technology Changes and Ethics**<br><br>1 Week | **Reading & Resources:**<br>• Chapter 1: Wrapping the Gift<br>• Other related resources | **Activity:**<br>• Module 1 Discussion (***10 pts***)<br><br>**Evaluation:**<br>• Module 1 Quiz (***20 pts***) |
| **Module 2:**<br>**Privacy & Technology Impacts**<br><br>2 Weeks | **Readings and Resources:**<br>• Chapter 2: Privacy<br>• Other related resource<br><br>Jan 19: ***MLK Jr. Holiday*** | **Activity:**<br>• Module 2 Discussion (***10 pts***)<br><br>**Evaluation:**<br>• Module 2 Quiz (***20 pts***)<br>• Module 2 Written Assignment (***25 pts***)<br>• Term Paper: Groups and topics are due (***5 pts***) |
| **Module 3:**<br>**Freedom of Speech**<br><br>2 Weeks | **Readings and Resources:**<br>• Chapter 3: Freedom of Speech<br>• Other related resources | **Activity:**<br>• Module 3 Discussion (***10 pts***)<br><br>**Evaluation:**<br>• Module 3 Quiz (***20 pts***) |
| **Module 4:**<br>**Intellectual Property**<br><br>2 Weeks | **Readings and Resources:**<br>• Chapter 3: Intellectual Property<br>• Other related resources | **Activity:**<br>• Module 4 Discussion (***10 pts***)<br><br>**Evaluation:**<br>• Module 4 Quiz (***20 pts***) |

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| **Module 5:**<br>**Computer Crime and Security**<br><br>2 Weeks | **Readings and Resources:**<br>• Chapter 5: Crime and Security<br>• Other related resources<br><br>Mar 9-15 Spring Break | **Activity:**<br>• Module 5 Discussion (***10 pts***)<br><br>**Evaluation:**<br>• Module 5 Quiz (***20 pts***)<br>• Module 5 Written Assignment (***25 pts***) |
| **Module 6:**<br>**Work & Technology Impacts**<br><br>1 Weeks | **Readings and Resources:**<br>• Chapter 6: Work<br>• Other related resources | **Activity:**<br>• Module 6 Discussion (***10 pts***)<br><br>**Evaluation:**<br>• Module 6 Quiz (***20 pts***) |
| **Module 7:**<br>**Evaluating and Controlling Technology**<br><br>1 Weeks | **Readings and Resources:**<br>• Chapter 7: Evaluating and Controlling Technology<br>• Other related resources | **Activity:**<br>• Module 7 Discussion (***10 pts***)<br><br>**Evaluation:**<br>• Module 7 Quiz (***20 pts***) |
| **Module 8:**<br>**Errors, Failures, and Risks**<br><br>2 Weeks | **Readings and Resources:**<br>• Chapter 8: Errors, Failures, and Risks<br>• Other related resources | **Activity:**<br>• Module 8 Discussion (***10 pts***)<br><br>**Evaluation:**<br>• Module 8 Quiz (***20 pts***)<br>• Module 8 Written Assignment (***25 pts***)<br>• Term Paper: Final reports are due (***30 pts***) |
| **Module 9:**<br>**Professional Ethics and Responsibilities**<br><br>1 Weeks | **Readings and Resources:**<br>• Chapter 9: Professional Ethics and Responsibilities<br>• Other related resources | **Activity:**<br>• Module 9 Discussion (***10 pts***)<br><br>**Evaluation:**<br>• Module 9 Quiz (***20 pts***) |
| Last week | **Term Paper Presentation: Discussion Forum**<br>**(**Posting presentation videos, sending questions to other groups, and replying to questions from another groups/instructor (***15 pts***)) | |

## Laboratory Safety Procedures and Guidelines policy

Students can access this policy at: Laboratory Safety Procedures and Guidelines policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049_Standard%20Syllabus%20Policy%20Statements_supplement.pdf).

## Attendance and Participation

Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039_StudAttnandAuthAbsence.Pub2_.19.pdf). If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know. Your safety and well-being are important to me.

## How to Succeed in this Course

Connect with me through email and/or by attending office hours. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

## Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

Every student in this class should have the right to learn and engage within an environment of respect and courtesy from others. We will discuss our classroom's habits of engagement and I also encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding (Code of Student Conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

## Other University Polices

Students will be aware about Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change, citing the Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049_Standard%20Syllabus%20Policy%20Statements_supplement.pdf). Also describe the standards for academic integrity in the course, citing the Academic Integrity Policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049_Standard%20Syllabus%20Policy%20Statements_supplement.pdf).

Students can access these policies in Navigate (Navigate.unt.edu), in Canvas under the Help menu, in EIS, and on the Student Support Services & Policies page.