

CSCE 4010: Social Issues in Computing
Section 401, 100% Online
COURSE SYLLABUS, Fall 2026
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
University of North Texas

Instructor

J. Ubaldo QUEVEDO

Jesesubaldo.Quevedo-torrero@unt.edu (preferred communication option)

Office: Discovery Park E250G

Student Office Hours: Mondays **5:20PM to 6:20PM**, and Tuesdays **4:00PM to 4:50PM**

Common Meeting Areas third floor at Frisco Landing **or** By Zoom

<https://unt.zoom.us/j/9876304928> and by appointment. **Please confirm your appointment by email.**

Office hours are for Fall 2026 only from August 17 to December 2nd, 2026.

Teaching Assistants:

Name	Email	Office Hours
Aliyeh Haghollahi	Aliyeh.Haghollahi@unt.edu	Check Canvas

Course Description:

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

Course Learning Objectives:

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
5. computing.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary issues in computing

Welcome to UNT (University of North Texas)!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to being part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Structure

This course takes place 100% online. We may have several synchronous video conferences with links posted throughout the semester if needed. Other than that, your

interaction with me and with your fellow students will take place on Canvas. There are 15 weeks of content that you will move through. I will open a new module of 1 or 2 weeks each. Participation in video conferences, if there is any, is optional. This course is not self-paced but self-directed and requires students to read the textbook, other course resources posted on canvas and practice the material independently. You must complete in sequential order ALL activities and assignments listed in each of the modules to successfully finish this course.

Syllabus Revisions:

This syllabus may be modified as the course progresses should the instructor deem it necessary. Notice of changes to the syllabus shall be made through Canvas and/or in-class announcements.

AI Resources: The use of AI resources such Google or ChatGPT is prohibited during exams or wherever indicated in specific assignments. Otherwise, it is permitted for educational purposes and enrichment.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

All department policies on Academic Integrity and Student Conduct apply for this course – these are available at the following link:

<https://engineering.unt.edu/cse/students/resources/academic-integrity.html>

Any exceptions to these guidelines are noted explicitly in the syllabus.

Communication Expectations: Since this is an online class, participation in weekly online activities is considered as attending the course. Additionally, you are expected to check Canvas content, due dates and other assignments at least at three different days during each week of the course. You will be expected to regularly check university email. For quick questions, email is preferred, and you can expect a response within 48 hours during the work week (M-F 9am-4:30pm, no Saturday, no Sunday). When you send emails, please use CSCE 4010 as part of your subject. Please do not expect a response over the weekend. Feedback on assignments, exams, and grades will usually be posted within two weeks after the due date.

For a grading issue, do not post your question as a comment after we have graded an assignment because we do not see those comments unless we revisit every graded assignment. Please email your grading issue questions.

Materials

All materials (readings, videos, tutorials, quizzes, and assignments) will be accessible online and posted on the course Canvas site on the respective class day at the latest.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All lecture slides will be available on Canvas.

- Our required textbook is an electronic book

Baase, Sara and Henry, Timothy. The Gift of Fire: Social, Legal and Ethic l Issues of Computing Technology (5th Ed). Pearson, 2021. ISBN-13: 9780137501946 (e-text) / 978-0134615271 (print)

Technical Requirements and Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computers are **required for this class**
 - **You must have access to a computer system with access to the Internet and capable of installing software and running Lockdown Browser. Chromebooks are not appropriate for an online class because you can't perform software installations.**
 - Quizzes and exams use the Canvas quiz system
 - [Canvas Technical Requirements \(https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements\)](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)
 - Students will be expected to download software as needed and indicated in class. You must download software and perform installations as needed (if any).

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from individual experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individuals’ experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”

- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Course Requirements

Your course grade will be determined by a combination of the following:

- Weekly Posting Activities (online discussions): 25%
- Quizzes: 30%
- Term Paper 20 %
- Presentations: 25%

Total 100%

Grading

A: 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)

B: 80-89% (Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)

C: 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)

D: 60-69% (Below average work. The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)

F: 59% and below (Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.)

Grading Scale: A=90, B=80-89.9, C=70-79.9, D=60-69.9, F=0-59.9 %.

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

Course Policies

Assignment Policy and Content Responsibility

There will be no make-up work for any graded course work activity in this course after their respective emergency extension. There are several course assignments such as quizzes, exams, weekly postings, and a group project. You need to solve the problems given and submit your answers by preferably days before their due date. However, most but not all course assignments have a 2-day emergency penalty free extension labeled as “Available Until” in Canvas. The emergency time extension should be used only to complete an assignment submission and NOT used to just start working on the assignment. There are no further extensions after the emergency extension. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS SUBMISSIONS BY EMAIL.** See the UNT Attendance Policy for more information. Please do not just start working on work course assignments after their due date and minutes before the emergency extension is about to expire. Getting sick the day the emergency extension expires without having done any prior work will not give you any further extension.

Examination Policy

Exams will be on the computer using the Canvas quiz system. Exam days are posted and are considered fixed. Missed exams: Exams cannot be missed without prior arrangements or later documented proof of extenuating circumstances. We do not have make up exams. Time will be limited, and all work will be individual. Exams will focus on the most recent material but are expected to be cumulative in scope.

Late Work

No late submission is accepted. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero.

Project

There is a term group project in which you will write a technical paper and prepare a presentation from your findings on solving a research question using statistical investigation, probability theory, and machine learning. No late submission will be accepted.

Extra Credit Options

Extra credit is optional. Be aware that we might not have any extra credit activity during this course. You do not have to participate in them to get an A in the course. These not-mandatory activities cannot be substituted or made-up. Extra credit activities would be special assignments with different point values. They are optional and they will be averaged separately from regular assignments. The final grade listed on Canvas will not include the extra credit. The final average extra credit percentage will be multiplied by 2.5 points, and those points will be considered only for determining the final letter grade. For example, if at the end of the course, a student has a 68% final score on Canvas for regular assignments, and such student has 100% in extra credit assignments. Then, to determine the student's final letter grade, we will do $68\% + 100\% \times 2.5 = 70.5\%$. The extra credit would change that student's grade from D to C. However, another student with a final score on Canvas for regular assignments of 74% with an extra credit average of 100%, will not change the student grade of C to a B because $74\% + 100\% \times 2.5 = 76.5\%$ which is still a C. In conclusion, extra credit is optional, you must qualify to validate your extra credit, additionally, extra credit only helps those students with borderline letter grade limits since the maximum points added to your final score is 2.5 points. Further, letter grades are not reflected on Canvas. Letter grades are posted on my.unt.edu.

The Final grade on Canvas will not ever be modified by the Extra Credit. Your 2.5 points max extra credit will be considered only to move you from one letter grade to a higher letter grade if your final grade posted on Canvas is within 2.5 points of the next letter grade. Therefore, if your final grade is, for example, 79.95 on Canvas, then you need some extra credit to move your grade from C to B.

To qualify for extra credit, you should not have incurred any of the penalties indicated in the next section.

Weekly Posting Activities (online-discussions)

Discussion assignments are weekly activities that track attendance/participation to the online course. Students just need to follow a series of one or more “how-to” style videos to post their answers. They are very brief “in-class like activities,” and answers are provided in one or more series of videos (not homework style, not research). They will be due on Fridays but with a penalty-free emergency extension to Mondays. Most students get 100% credit on them. It is suggested to post answers by Thursday so that students have enough time to reply/comment to other’s posts.

Attendance Policy

Since this is an online class, participation in weekly online activities is considered as attending the course. Additionally, you are expected to check Canvas content, due dates and assignments at least three different days during each week of the course.

If you are not attending the online course, you will be expected to know and understand the requisite topics and concepts. Since this is an online class, you are expected to be active or “present” by participating at least in the weekly online discussions and you are expected to check on the weekly Canvas content and activities at least at three different days each week of the course. You are responsible for checking announcements often to stay connected with the whole class about upcoming events, assignments, or activities. Also check out your Canvas for assignment due dates so you can plan your semester accordingly. There is no need to let the instructor know you have missed a class (weekly online discussion), or you will miss future classes; however, you are responsible for keeping up with the material covered in the class if you are not active. We do not have excused abscess or permission to be absent. If a class is missed, you are expected to proactively reach out to classmates, the TA, or the instructor if there are any questions. Again, if you miss a class (weekly online participation and being active on Canvas at least at three different days during the week), you are still responsible for knowing everything that took place. Your absence does not change the due date of an assignment.

Grading Issues

Once a grade has been posted for a course assignment, grading issues need to be addressed with graders first. Do not contact the instructor unless the grading issue is not solved by graders. Additionally, we only have one week after a grade has been posted to address grading errors or any other issues. We cannot correct grades that have been posted on canvas for longer than one week.

Academic Integrity Policy

Cheating of any sort will not be tolerated in this course. All work turned in with your name on it must be your own work. Failure to adhere to these strict standards will cause disciplinary action that could be as severe as expulsion from the university. If it is determined a student cheated on any assignment in this course, they will receive an F for their final course grade and an academic integrity report will be filed with the Office of Academic Integrity. Further, UNT is now maintaining a database recording any acts of

academic dishonesty available to employers. For more information see the UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy.

Course Penalties

Incurring any of the following penalties disqualifies you to receive any extra credit if available, and penalizes your grades as indicated next.

1. ***Cheating:*** Cheating on tests and programs will be dealt with very severely. You must make a diligent effort to prevent other students from seeing your test answers. If you take an exam in proximity with another classmate, keep your paper or computer screen covered and do not let your eyes wander during tests. You should not receive or give help to others while taking an exam. We also monitor responses to course assignments generated by AI resources such as ChatGPT.

First offense of Receiving or giving help while taking an exam= -25% deducted from grade

Second offense of Receiving or giving help while taking an exam= 0% in the exam. The exam will not be graded.

One or more incidents of cheating in exam= 0% in Exam

Cheating on a second exam= F in the course

2. ***Plagiarism:*** Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Copying someone else's program, changing a few lines, and turning it in as your own is plagiarism; thus, this is cheating. Each student writes his or her own programs. You should not receive or give help to others on any program that goes beyond help in deciphering syntax errors. **First time penalty = 0% in assignment, second time penalty=F in the course.**
3. Inappropriate multiple requests of changing a grade for any of the following statements or something similar: (1) Being in probation, (2) last semester, (3) core course, (4) financial situation, (5) Being sick, (6) suspended from the university, (7) family issues, (8) others.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-

reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Getting Help

Technical Assistance

UIT Help Desk (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

Student Support Services

- Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- Student Legal Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- Career Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- Multicultural Center (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- Student Affairs Care Team (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- Student Health and Wellness Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- Pride Alliance (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- Academic Support Services
- Academic Resource Center (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- Academic Success Center (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- UNT Libraries (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- MathLab (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)