

# CSCE 4010 Social Issues in Computing / CSCE 4011 Engineering Ethics

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## Description

An exploration of the effects of technology on modern society, with an emphasis on the role of engineering and technical professionals.

## Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will:

1. Be aware of the social implications of computing;
2. Have a working knowledge of basic computer-related law;
3. Understand the need for computer ethics;
4. Have communicated effectively orally about a topic related to social and ethical issues in computing;
5. Have communicated effectively in writing about a topic related to social and ethical issues in computing.

## Text Book:

Computer Ethics, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Deborah G. Johnson, Pearson/Prentice Hall, ISBN: 978-0-13-111241-4

## Course Organization

### 1. Online Participation

- Students are required to read each chapter and to participate in online discussions.
- It is strongly recommended that students post their responses during the scheduled class meeting time. Each forum is automatically closed on the due date.
- The online modules stop accepting assignments at the deadline. To avoid receiving a zero, it is recommended that you complete the work as early as possible.
- All work submitted is to be your own original work and all materials used shall be properly cited. Violation of this policy will be given a zero to the assignment or an 'F' grade to the course.

### 2. Term Paper

- The term paper is a group assignment.
- A term paper can be up to 5 pages (excluding references), single-spaced, and single-column. Each page has a 1-inch margin on all sides.
- This format will be strictly enforced and failure to follow this format will result in a penalty of 20% of the total grade of the term paper.
- Each term paper must include a section before the title of the paper that states the contributions from the group members and gives a percentage of efforts.

### 3. Video Presentation

- A video presentation is required to discuss the term paper.
- The length of each presentation is up to 15 minutes.
- The video must be playable in Windows and Mac computers.

## Grading

The grade will be determined based on the online discussion, term paper, and presentation. The following policies apply to all discussions/assignments (unless stated otherwise):

### 1. Grades

- (individual) Forty (40) points for each of the eight online modules. Twenty (20) points for an answer to a textbook question and ten (10) points for each comment in the discussion.
- (individual) Forty (40) points for the discussion of video presentations, among which twenty (20) points for each question asked to a virtual presentation (i.e., a discussion thread).
- (group) One hundred forty (140) points for the term paper.
- (group) Eighty (80) points for the video presentation, among which sixty points are for the virtual presentation and twenty points are for responding to questions.
- (individual) Ten (10) bonus points for completing the course evaluation; a proof of completion submitted via email is required.
- (individual) Ten (10) bonus points for completing the ABET evaluation; a proof of completion submitted via email is required.

### 2. Online discussion

- To complete a module, each student needs to respond to at least one question listed at the end of a chapter and make at least two comments on other students' messages in the discussion after finishing the reading assignment. (Module 0, Module T-1, and Module T-2 are excluded from this requirement.)
- Descriptive, meaningful responses and comments are required. For the posts that respond to a question, the message title must be the exact format (without quote signs): "Question ##" and ## is the two-digit question number.
- There are a number of questions available for each chapter. One question can be responded by up to twelve (12) students. If more than twelve (12) students responded to a question, only the first twelve (12) are accepted.
- In case a student responds to more than one question, only the first question responded to by this student is counted as being responded to. That is, the count of responses for the other questions does not change because of the extra response from this student.
- Besides responding to a question, each student must make two (2) comments to the OTHER's online discussions (either a response to a question by another student or a comment made by another student).
- Completing a response to a question receives up to twenty (20) points.

- Completing a comment to a discussion message receives up to ten (10) points.
- For students that fail to comply with the rules stated in the module description, 50% of the points will be deducted. That 50% of points CAN be granted to the next student who missed the count.

### 3. Term paper

- A term paper can discuss the ethical issues of contemporary or emerging technological development.
- Examples include human brain interface, autonomous vehicles, smart toys, big data envision to privacy, etc.
- The paper is expected to focus on one or a few real-world cases.
- A description of the problem with references and a discussion that highlights your understanding are expected.
- Rubric (based on 140 points):

Point	Aspect	Very Good 85%-100%	Good 70%-84%	Fair 50%-69%	Poor 0%-49%
20	Structure	Presentation is clear and logical. Reader can easily follow the line of reasoning. Logical connection of points.	Presentation is generally clear. Sentence flow is generally smooth. A few minor points confusing or not clearly connected.	Reader can follow the presentation with effort. Structure not well thought out. Points are not clearly made.	Presentation is very confused and unclear. Reader cannot follow : deduce the main point presented.
20	Style	Level is appropriate for presentation of results. Writing is free of errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Flows smoothly.	Level is generally appropriate. Writing is generally error-free, but some errors in language or grammar may occur.	Enough errors in style or grammar occur that they become distracting. Voice may change randomly. May appear disjointed.	Writing style is consis at an inappropriate lev Errors are frequent and distracting so that it is to determine the mean No logical connection ideas or flow of senter
40	Critical perspective	Show considerable critical thinking about information acquired from various sources. Able to critically discuss and independently evaluate information and to come to own conclusions.	Generally shows critical thinking skills. Able to provide some critical evaluation /discussion. Generally, appropriate conclusions are drawn from it. Some assertions may lack support. May contain some minor mistakes, no significant errors are made.	Show some critical thinking. Lack of consistency in the critical evaluation of information and viewpoints. Discussion and independent conclusions are inadequate. Significant logical errors are present.	Significant lack of criti thinking and perspecti Little independent thi and conclusions. Auth accept the viewpoints others without critical consideration. Abunde logical errors.
40	Content	Introduction contains pertinent background information. Given tasks and questions are thoroughly analyzed and elaborated. Results and conclusions are logically constructed and summarized. Information is consistently accurate.	Gives general information about the topic, but some relevant information may be missing, or significance is not clearly explained. Description of results is generally clear. No significant errors made.	Insufficient information on background, relevance, significance is given. Some information is accurate, but enough errors are made to be distracting.	Provides little or no information on backgr and significance. Information is inaccur: with many errors. Discussion is very dif to follow. Reader learn little.
20	References	References to appropriate articles are properly cited in the text and listed in a proper format.	Appropriate references are used and cited, but some may be incomplete or in incorrect style.	Minimal numbers of references are used. Style is incorrect and/or incomplete.	No references provide

### 4. Virtual presentation

- Each team will prepare a video that records their presentation on the topic presented in their term paper.

- The video must be less than 15 minutes.
- In the virtual presentation, each student will make comments and raise questions to at least three different presentations.
- Each virtual presentation must be manned by a team member at the scheduled class meeting time to respond to questions, and the response must be in a timely manner.
- Check out [How to record presentation videos with Microsoft PowerPoint](#). A video with animated slides and synchronized voice is the minimum requirement. There is no requirement to show the faces of the team members. Alternatively, there are many free screen recording software that helps you to make a video to include both your slideshow and audio.

## 5. Cheating

- Cheating will NOT be tolerated. Students guilty of cheating on a test or program will be given an F in the course.
- Allowing others to copy your work is also considered cheating. For further details and clarifications regarding collaboration and cheating, view the University Student Rights and Responsibilities web page.

## Absenteeism Policy

1. Attendance is required for all students without exception.
2. Absence is only allowed in extreme circumstances, e.g., medical emergency.
3. Written evidence is required no later than 5 days after the absence.
4. If a student misses four (4) classes, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from the course or receiving an F grade.
5. Online discussion is considered as attendance. Missing four (4) online discussions is considered as equivalent to four absences.

## Course Evaluation

At the end of the semester, you will be asked to participate in two evaluations of this course: SPOT evaluation and ABET evaluation. The ABET evaluation is used to collect student evaluations for ABET accreditation. Taking this survey is strongly encouraged. This survey will also be made available close to the end of the semester.

## ADA

UNT complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services please contact the Office of Disability Accommodation.