CSCE 4010 Social Issues in Computing

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Special information for COVID-19  
Call COVID hotline (844-366-5892, COVID@unt.edu) if you meet any of the following:

1. Have one or more new or worsening symptoms of possible COVID-19 but have not been tested yet.
2. Have tested positive for COVID-19.
3. Do not have any symptoms but someone you live with (roommate, parent, etc.) has tested positive for COVID-19.
4. Do not have any symptoms but recently spent time with someone (at work, home, etc.) is now exhibiting symptoms of, or is being tested for, COVID-19.

Resources for information: https://healthalerts.unt.edu/symptoms-monitoring  
Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) (940)565-2333:  
1. Contact SHWC immediately if having symptoms and need to be seen  
2. SHWC has capacity to conduct a rapid COVID-19 antigen test for UNT students  
3. If you are positive, you will be interviewed to determine close contacts  
4. The SHWC works with public health officials to inform UNT community  
5. Do not share health information of others within class  

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  
Course Organization

1. Online discussions and learning modules
   - Online discussions and learning modules are individual assignments.
   - Students are required to read each chapter of the text book and to participate in online discussions.
   - It is strongly recommended that students post their responses as early as possible when the module is available. The online modules automatically stop accepting assignments at the deadline.
   - 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.
   - Late submissions are not considered.

2. Term Paper
   - The term paper is a group assignment.
   - A term paper should be kept no more than 5 pages (excluding references) but no less than 4 pages. It is formatted as single-spaced, single-column, and 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
   - The video presentation is a group assignment.
   - A video presentation is required to discuss the term paper.
   - There is no requirement to see the face of the presenters.
   - A presentation can be made by one, some, or all members of the team.
   - The duration of each video presentation should be kept about 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. Grade points are allocated as shown in the graph and details are the following:
   - (individual) Forty (40) points for each of the eight online modules (Module 1 through Module 8). Twenty (20) points for an answer to a textbook question and ten (10) points for each comment in the discussion.
   - (individual) Thirty (30) points for the discussion of video presentations, among which fifteen (15) points for each question asked to a virtual presentation (i.e., a discussion thread).
   - (group) Forty (40) points for Modules T-1 through T-3. Ten (10) points Module T-1; fifteen (15) points for Module T-2; and fifteen (15) points for Module T-3.
   - (group) One hundred forty (100) points for the term paper.
   - (group) Ninty (90) points for the video presentation, among which sixty points are for the virtual presentation (i.e., video) and thirty 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, Module T-2, Module T-3 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 fifteen (15) students. If more than fifteen (15) students responded to a question, only the first fifteen (15) 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 usually presents and discusses the ethical issues of contemporary or emerging technological developments.
  - Examples include human brain interface, autonomous vehicles, smart toys, big data envision to privacy, face recognition, 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.

- The references and citation must follow APA format (https://www.mendeley.com/guides/apa-citation-guide)

- Each member submits an evaluation of the members in the group in terms of the percentage of contributions to the term paper together with a statement of what was done by each. The average percentage of contributions of each member will be used to allocate the points of the term paper.
  - An example: A team of three received 80 out of 100 for the term paper. The average evaluations for the members are 50%, 50%, 0% for members 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The grades are then 100 (240*0.5), 100 (240*0.5), 0 (240*0) for members 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Anyone who receives more than 100 points will be capped at 100.

- Grading rubrics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Very Good 85%-100%</th>
<th>Good 70%-84%</th>
<th>Fair 50%-69%</th>
<th>Poor 0%-49%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Point aspect</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Structure and style</td>
<td>Presentation is clear and logical. Reader can easily follow the line of reasoning. Logical connection of points. Level is appropriate for presentation of results. Writing is free of errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Flows smoothly.</td>
<td>Presentation is generally clear. Sentence flow is generally smooth. A few minor points confusing or not clearly connected. Level is generally appropriate. Writing is generally error-free, but some errors in language or grammar may occur.</td>
<td>Reader can follow the presentation with effort. Structure not well thought out. Points are not clearly made. Enough errors in style or grammar occur that they become distracting. Voice may change randomly. May appear disjointed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Critical perspective</td>
<td>Show considerable critical thinking about information acquired from various sources. Able to critically discuss and independently evaluate information and to come to own conclusions.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Content</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Insufficient information on background, relevance, significance is given. Some information is accurate, but enough errors are made to be distracting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>References</td>
<td>References to appropriate articles are properly cited in the text and listed in a proper format.</td>
<td>Appropriate references are used and cited, but some may be incomplete or in incorrect style.</td>
<td>Minimal numbers of references are used. Style is incorrect and/or incomplete.</td>
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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 about 15 minutes.
   - In the virtual presentation, each student will make comments and raise questions to at least two 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 will be given an F in the course.
   - Duplicating an existing work including any online resources without proper citation is considered cheating. The duplication rate of the term paper beyond 20% will be penalized by deducting 20% of the total points. A term paper with more than 30% duplication rate is given a zero grade.
   - 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. A written evidence is required no later than 5 days after the absence. Exceptions are stated in **COVID-19 impact on attendance**
3. If a student misses four (4) classes, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from the course or receiving an F grade.
4. Online discussion is considered as attendance. Missing four (4) online discussions is considered as equivalent to four absences.

**COVID-19 impact on attendance**
1. While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to COVID-19 including symptoms, potential exposure, pending or positive test results, or if you have been given specific instructions to isolate or quarantine from a health care provider or a local authority. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.
2. If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

**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.