

CSCE 4010 Social Issues in Computing

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Course Description

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

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.

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

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 textbook 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.
 - Please refer to the Term Paper and Presentation Guideline for more information.
3. Video Presentation
 - The video presentation is a group assignment.
 - Please refer to the Term Paper and Presentation Guideline for more information.

Grading

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

1. **Grade points are allocated as the following**
 - (individual) online modules

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) discussion of video presentations
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) Modules T-1 through T-3
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) term paper:
One hundred (100) points for the term paper.
- (group) video presentation
Ninety (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) bonus points
Ten (10) bonus points for completing the course evaluation; proof of completion submitted via email is required.
Ten (10) bonus points for completing the ABET evaluation; 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 twenty (20) students. If more than twenty (20) students responded to a question, only the first twenty (20) 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 number of responses to 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

- Please refer to the Term Paper and Presentation Guideline for additional instructions and grading rubric.

4. Video presentation

- Please refer to the Term Paper and Presentation Guideline for additional instructions and grading rubric.

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. Written evidence is required no later than 5 days after the absence.
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.

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 reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services, please contact the Office of Disability Accommodation.