CSCE 4010 Social Issues in Computing

Instructor: Dr. Xiaohui Yuan
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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 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.

Textbook

Baase, Sara and Henry, Timothy. The Gift of Fire: Social, Legal and Ethical Issues of Computing Technology (5th Ed). Pearson, 2018. ISBN-13: 9780137501946 (e-text) / 978-0134615271 (print)

Course Organization

1. Online discussions and learning modules
   - Online discussions and learning modules are <u>individual assignments.</u>
   - 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 original work and all materials used shall be properly cited. Violation of this policy will result in a zero grade for the assignment or an 'F' grade for the course.
   - Late submissions are not considered.
2. Term Paper
   - The term paper is a <u>group assignment</u>.
   - 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 <u>group assignment</u>.
   - A video presentation is required to discuss the term paper.
   - There is no requirement to see the faces 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 at about 15 minutes.
   - The video must be playable on 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
   - (<u>individual</u>) Forty (40) points for each online module. Twenty (20) points for an answer to a textbook question and ten (10) points for each comment in the discussion.
   - (<u>individual</u>) Thirty (20) points for the discussion of video presentations, among which fifteen (10) points for each question asked to a virtual presentation (i.e., a discussion thread).
   - (<u>individual</u>) Forty (20) points for each of the writing assignments.
   - (<u>group</u>) One hundred forty (50) points for the term paper, including 10 points for the topics and 40 points for the final report.
   - (<u>group</u>) Ninety (30) points for the video presentation, among which 15 points are for the virtual presentation (i.e., video) and 15 points are for responding to questions.
   - (<u>individual</u>) Ten (10) bonus points for completing the course evaluation; proof of completion submitted via email is required.
   - (<u>individual</u>) 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.
   - Descriptive, meaningful responses and comments are required.
   - 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.

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.

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

o 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%, and 0% for members 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The grades are then 100 (240*0.5), 100 (240*0.5), and 0 (240*0) for members 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Anyone who receives more than 100 points will be capped at 100.

o Grading rubrics:

Point	Aspect	Very Good 85%-100%	Good 70%-84%	Fair 50%-69%	Poor 0%-49%
20	Structure and style	The presentation is clear and logical. The reader can easily follow the line of reasoning. Logical connection of points. The level is appropriate for the presentation of results. Writing is free of errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Flows smoothly.	The presentation is generally clear. The sentence flow is generally smooth. A few minor points are confusing or not clearly connected. The level is generally appropriate. Writing is generally error-free, but some errors in language or grammar may occur.	The reader can follow the presentation with effort. The structure is not well thought out. Points are not clearly made. Many errors in style or grammar occur which makes it distracting. The voice may change randomly. May appear disjointed.	The presentation is very confusing and unclear. The reader cannot follow it or deduce the main points presented. The writing style is consistently at an inappropriate level. Errors are frequent and distracting so it is hard to determine the meaning. No logical connection of ideas or flow of sentences.
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, but 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 critical thinking and perspective. Little independent thinking and conclusions. Authors accept the viewpoints of others without critical consideration. Abundant logical errors.

30	Content	The 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. The description of the results is generally clear. No significant errors were made.	Insufficient information on background, relevance, and significance is given. Some information is accurate, but enough errors are made to be distracting.	Provides little or no information on background and significance. Information is inaccurate or with many errors. The discussion is very difficult to follow. The reader learns little.
10	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 were provided.

4. Virtual presentation
   o Each team will prepare a video that records their presentation on the topic presented in their term paper.
   o The video must be about 15 minutes.
   o In the virtual presentation, each student will make comments and raise questions to at least two different presentations.
   o 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.
   o 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 help you to make a video to include both your slideshow and audio.
5. Cheating
   o Cheating will NOT be tolerated. Students guilty of cheating will be given an F in the course.
   o 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 a 30% duplication rate is given a zero grade.
   o 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 receive an F grade.
4. Online discussion is considered as attendance. Missing four (4) online discussions is considered 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.