CS3162.091 and .092 Course Syllabus

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Course Information

CS3162.091   Professional Responsibility in Computer Science and
                  Software engineering

Spring 2025

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Professor Contact Information

Name	John Cole
Office Phone	972-883-6353
Office Location	ECSS 4.606
Email Address	John.Cole@utdallas.edu
Web Site	www.utdallas.edu/~John.Cole
Office Hours	See Web site: https://personal.utdallas.edu/~John.Cole/#Office

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Course Modality and Expectations

Instructional Mode	1. In-person. You will be expected to be in class. **Attendance is mandatory** and will be taken. Classes will not be presented online unless the University requires it and will not be recorded unless the University requires it.
Meeting Time and Place	Tuesday/Thursday from 8:00 AM to 8:50 AM (Section 092) Tuesday/Thursday from 9:00 AM to 9:50 AM (Section 091) Room: FN 2.102
Course Platform	Traditional classroom.
Expectations	You will attend every class on time, participate when appropriate, and silence your phone and put it somewhere off the desk and out of reach.
Asynchronous Learning Guidelines	None. Unless the University requires it, this class will not be offered asynchronously.

General Course Information

Prerequisites / Corequisites	**CS 3345 and CS 3354** with a grade of C or better.

	Professional and ethical responsibilities of computer scientists and software engineers as influenced by growth in computer use and networks. Costs and benefits of computer technology. Risks and liabilities of safety-critical systems. Social implications of the Internet. Interaction between human values and technical decisions involving computing. Intellectual Property. Global impact of computing. Dangers of AI and Robots. The Singularity. Topics will vary a little by class and level of participation.
Course Description	
Learning Outcomes	1. Ability to understand professional issues and responsibilities 2. Ability to understand ethical issues and responsibilities 3. Ability to understand legal issues and responsibilities 4. Ability to understand security issues and responsibilities 5. Ability to understand social issues and responsibilities 6. Ability to analyze the local impact of computing 7. Ability to analyze the global impact of computing
Required Text	*A Gift of Fire, Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology*, 5th Edition by Sara Baase & Timothy M. Henry Pearson Publishing ISBN 13:978-0-13-461527-1

Course Policies

Grading Criteria	Homework: 70% Final Test: 25% Attendance: 5%	A=93-100 A-=90-92.99 B+=87-89.99 B=83-86.99 B-=80-82.99 C+=77-79.99 C=73-76.99 C-=70-72.99 F=below 70
Make-up Exams	N/A	
Extra-Credit Work	None given. Please do not ask.	
Late Work	Reduction of 20 percent per day or partial day for any late submissions unless otherwise stated in the assignment. That is, if the assignment is worth 100 points, you will lose 2 points per day, in addition to points lost because of the quality of work. The exception is that assignments 15 minutes late or less will receive only a 10-point reduction. Strictly enforced.	
Grade Information	I do not curve individual assignments, but I may curve the entire course a little. Do not count on this. Do your best work. Grades will be posted in eLearning and you can use the weights above to see where you stand. Grading will be lenient, but do	

	your own work. I'm more interested in how you think about a topic than what you think. Be prepared to argue your point of view.
Who Grades What	The graders and I will grade all homework. I will grade the final exam.
Grade Disputes	If you have an issue with your grade on a test or homework, talk to me. You have **one week** after a grade is posted to do so. Do not come in at the end of the semester looking for a better grade on the first test.
Final Exam and Attendance	Regarding attendance: If you have perfect attendance and have handed in all assignments on time, you may choose to be exempt from the final exam and your grade will be computed as if you got a perfect score. For this, even excused absences are counted, so you must have attended all classes as documented by the attendance quizzes. This includes the first day and the test review.

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Class Attendance

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Computer Science Department policy is that if you miss three consecutive classes your grade will drop one letter grade. Missing four in a row is failing.

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected regardless of modality. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes. These attendance requirements will not be used as part of grading (see Class Participation below for grading information).

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Participation includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Materials

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student This is subject to change, and an updated version can be found at https://personal.utdallas.edu/~John.Cole/2025Fall/CS3162Fall2025ScheduleB.htm

Tentative schedule of topics.			
Week	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	Oct 21	Course Introduction -- Chapter1: The Rapid Pace of Change	
	Oct 23	Bill Joy & Chapter 2: Privacy	Homework 1
2	Oct 28	Chapter 9 -- Scenarios	Homework 2
	Oct 30	Only the Lonely	Homework 3
3	Nov 4	Chapter 3 -- Freedom of Speech	
	Nov 6	Chapter 4 -- Intellectual Property	Homework 4
4	Nov 11	Chapter 5 -- Crime and Security	
	Nov 13	Chapter 6 -- Work	Homework 5
5	Nov 18	Chapter 7 -- Evaluating and Controlling Technology	
	Nov 20	Chapter 8 -- Errors, Failures, and Risk	Homework 6
6	Nov 25	Thanksgiving break	
	Nov 27	Thanksgiving break	
7	Dec 2	Transhumanism -- Paper by Nick Bostrom	
	Dec 4	ACM & IEEE Codes of Ethics	
8	Dec 9	Test Review	
	Dec 11	Final Exam in the classroom	

https://pluto.tv/en/on-demand/series/5ef0d81d146bc5001ae9f7d0/season/1/episode/61c2286bafe81f001a1f3fa1?utm_medium=textsearch&utm_source=google

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Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities
Not Applicable.

Comet Creed
This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

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Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please see http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources.

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UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.

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The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.