**CS449 Professional Issues in IT**

**Instructor Information**

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**Course Information**

Prerequisite: CS303 Software Engineering

Level: BS

Category: Core

Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Spring 2017

Class Venue: CS-A (CS-3); CS-B (CS-5)

Class Hours: WED & FRI

CS-A (09:30 – 10:50); CS-B (14:00 – 15:20)

Office Hours: FRI 15:30 – 16:30

**Course Objectives**

This course prepares the students to enter the workforce as well-rounded individuals possessing a much-needed understanding of important ethical, legal, social, and financial aspects of the computing profession. It equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary for making positive contributions as socially responsible professionals.

After studying this course, the students will be able to:

* Communicate effectively in a professional environment.
* Make an informed decision when confronted with an ethical dilemma.
* Perform various economic analyses related to software management.
* Appreciate the importance of non-technical knowledge for practitioners.

**Reference Material**

1. Professional Issues in Information Technology, Frank Bott, The British Computer Society, 2005.
2. Ethical and Social Issues in the Information Age, Joseph Migga Kizza, Springer, 4th edition, 2010.
3. Software Engineering Economics, Barry W. Boehm, Prentice-Hall, 1981.

**Course Grading (Tentative)**

* Quizzes: 10%
* Presentations: 20%
* Midterm Exams: 30%
* Final Exam: 40%

**[[1]](#footnote-2)Course Schedule**

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| **S#** | **Topic** | **Week** | **[[2]](#footnote-3)Readings** |
| 1 | Introduction and Overview | 1 | [1] Chapter 1 |
| 2 | Profession and Professional Bodies | 1 | [1] Chapters 2 and 3 |
| 3 | Ethical Aspects | 2, 3 | [2] Chapters 2 - 4, 10 |
| 4 | Social Context | 4 | [2] Chapter 7 |
|  | TEAM PRESENTATIONS I | 5 |  |
|  | MIDTERM EXAM 1 | 6 |  |
| 5 | Organizational Aspects | 7 | [1] Chapters 4 and 9 |
| 6 | HR Aspects | 7 | [1] Chapter 10 |
| 7 | Legal Aspects | 8, 9 | [1] Chapters 11 - 14, 16 |
| 8 | Accounting | 10 | [1] Chapter 7 |
| 9 | Financing Startups | 10 | [1] Chapter 5 |
|  | TEAM PRESENTATIONS II | 11 |  |
|  | MIDTERM EXAM 2 | 12 |  |
| 10 | Economic Analysis | 13, 14, 15 | [3] Chapters 10 - 20 |
|  | GUEST LECTURES | 16 |  |
|  | FINAL EXAM |  |  |

**Important Information**

**Announcements**

Announcements related to different aspects of this course (e.g. lectures, quizzes, exams, etc.) may be posted on SLATE (<http://slate.nu.edu.pk/portal>). Students are expected to view the announcements section of SLATE regularly.

**Attendance**

All students are expected to attend all lectures from beginning to end. Partial or full absence from a lecture without a valid reason may hamper chances for securing good grades.

**Exams**

Exams will be closed-book and closed-notes. Syllabus for the final exam will be comprehensive.

**Guest Lectures**

Seasoned practitioners and experienced professionals will be invited to deliver guest lectures. They will share important life lessons and tips for succeeding in the profession.

**Office Hours**

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of instructor’s office hours. Any doubts regarding concepts covered in class or any questions regarding quizzes may be clarified during office hours. In case a student is not able to make it during office hours, he/she may schedule an appointment with the instructor for another time slot.

**Presentations**

Teams of 4 - 5 students will deliver two presentations each. Each presentation will be related to one or more topics covered in this course. Teams will be formed by the instructor himself. Further details about team presentations will be communicated later.

**Quizzes**

Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. A quiz will usually be about 5 – 10 minutes long and it may be given anytime during the lecture. Students missing a quiz will NOT be given a make-up quiz.

**Reading Material**

Students are encouraged to finish the assigned readings BEFORE the lecture. This is likely to improve lecture comprehension and class participation.

**Revision of Grades**

Students can contest their grades on quizzes ONLY within a week of the release of grades. Exams will be available for review according to university policies.

**Unfair Means**

Students are expected to demonstrate the highest degree of moral and ethical conduct. Any student caught cheating, copying, or using any other unfair means will be strictly dealt-with in accordance with university policies.

1. Course schedule is subject to change. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Numbers in square brackets correspond to books numbered in “Reference Material” section. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)