

# CSCI 215: Social and Ethical Issues in Computer Science

Fall 2020

## Meeting Times

- Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursday, 3:10-4:00pm, Reid 108
  - 25 minute lecture, 25 minute student presentations (3 a day) and discussion
  - Lectures and student presentations recorded and can be watched on your own time and we will be streaming through zoom during class times
  - <https://zoom.us/j/99758999134?pwd=QzdmK3FiVXRqa09UOFN1am92cFBCQT09>
  - Meeting ID: 997 5899 9134
  - Passcode: 241176
- Recitations: Online discussion forum
  - Each of you will be put in a group of 7 students for a total of 14 groups. You will submit your presentation as a video to that group and each of you will discuss points/answer questions from those presentations. Each week 3 of you will present your presentations in class instead of videoing it.

## Instructor

- Dr. Mary Ann Cummings
  - E-mail: [mary.cummings1@montana.edu](mailto:mary.cummings1@montana.edu)
  - Phone: (406) 994-3547
  - Virtual Office Hours: MWTh 10:00-11:00am, or by appointment **only**.
    - <https://zoom.us/j/92559886174?pwd=a1V2aXNic0I4MVd3QW1UUGtvQzhldz09>
    - Meeting ID: 925 5988 6174
    - Passcode: 974334

## TA Information

- Gerard Shu Fuhnwi, email: [gerard.shufuhnwi@student.montana.edu](mailto:gerard.shufuhnwi@student.montana.edu), Office hours: 11am-1:10pm on Mondays through zoom. Meetings ID: 664 884 7590 Passcode: 13NFrp
- Na'Shea Wiesner, email: [nasheawiesner@gmail.com](mailto:nasheawiesner@gmail.com), Office hours: 1:10-3pm on Wednesdays through zoom. Meeting ID: 504 004 7014, Passcode: 9WCwr3

## Course Description

This course is a discussion class where we discuss ethical issues in computer science that exist today using case studies. We will use current news at times to frame our discussions.

To determine if you are understanding these concepts, you will be creating presentations that show you can apply or think through the concepts we are learning. This course is very much about discussion and getting you to think through issues.

## Books used

- **Optional:** *Ethics in a Computing Culture*, by Bo Brinkman and Alton Sanders
- **Optional:** *Brotopia*, by Emily Chang
- **Optional:** *Ethics for the Information Age*, by Michael J. Quinn

## Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Think critically and reason about current ethical issues in computer science
- Describe examples of current ethical issues in computer science

## Policy

- All announcements will be in Brightspace announcements. You are responsible for reading all announcements there.
- **All assignments must be turned in by the due date time. BUT, each student will get one free late pass for homework (recitation presentations only).** This means that each student will be able to turn in ONE recitation presentation within 48 hours after the due date. No questions asked. **ONLY ONE ASSIGNMENT.** Use this wisely. If you use this early in the semester and then something unforeseen happens, you still must submit the assignment on time. Please do not challenge this policy.
- Academic DISHONESTY results in an **automatic F** for you and the person you copy from. This should never be a problem, however instances of cheating do occur.
- You must site all work that is not yours.
- If you do not know how to solve a problem, talk to me!
- Absolutely **no texting or using cell** phones in class. If you must use your mobile/cell device you must leave the classroom.
- We will use Microsoft teams for your recitation teams.

## When to attend class in person

In order to maintain social distancing in class during this unique semester, a portion of students will come to class each class day. Below is who should attend when:

- Tuesday - Those with last names starting with A to Me...
- Thursday - Those with last names starting with Mi to Z

## Wearing Masks in Classrooms is Required

Face coverings are required in all indoor spaces and all enclosed or partially enclosed outdoor spaces. MSU requires all students to wear face masks or cloth face coverings in classrooms, laboratories and other similar spaces where in-person instruction occurs. MSU requires the wearing of masks in physical classrooms to help mitigate the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19. The MSU community views the adoption of these practices as a mark of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

The complete details about MSU's mask requirement can be found at <https://www.montana.edu/health/coronavirus/index.html>.

These requirements from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education are detailed in the MUS Healthy Fall 2020 Guidelines, Appendix B.

For more information: <https://www.montana.edu/health/coronavirus/prevention/index.html>

Compliance with the face-covering protocol is expected. If a you do not comply with a classroom rule, you may be requested to leave class. Section 460.00 of the MSU Code of Student Conduct covers "disruptive student behavior."

### **Accommodations for Not Wearing a Mask**

Individuals whose unique and individual circumstances require an exception to the face covering requirement, as indicated by a medical professional, may request one in accordance with the campus ADA policies. Students should contact the Office of Disability Services at 994-2824 or [drv@montana.edu](mailto:drv@montana.edu) to receive written permission from the Office of Disability Services at MSU. It is strongly recommended that students make contact prior to arriving on campus in order to provide adequate time for their request to be evaluated.

### **Health Related Class Absence**

Please evaluate your own health status regularly and refrain from attending class and other on-campus events if you are ill. MSU students who miss class due to illness will be given opportunities to access course materials online. You are encouraged to seek appropriate medical attention for treatment of illness. In the event of contagious illness, please do not come to class or to campus to turn in work or attend class. Instead notify me by email me about your absence as soon as practical, so that accommodations can be made. Please note that documentation (a Doctor's note) for medical excuses is not required. MSU University Health Partners - as part their commitment to maintain patient confidentiality, to encourage more appropriate use of healthcare resources, and to support meaningful dialogue between instructors and students - does not provide such documentation.

### **Students with Disabilities**

To ensure equity for each student's educational experience, those with any documented disability and required accommodations should contact me early in the semester so that all learning needs may be appropriately met. I must see your blue card before you use those accommodations in this class. Accommodations are approved through the Office of Disability Services located in SUB 174. [www.montana.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.montana.edu/disabilityservices)

## **Inclusive Learning Environment**

This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect. I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of this class.

## **Grading**

- Recitation presentations - 36% (either given in class or recitation)
- Recitation discussion – 36%
- Writing assignments (2) – 28%

At the end of the semester, final grades will be determined as follows:

- 93+: A
- 90+: A-
- 87+: B+
- 83+: B
- 80+: B-
- 77+: C+
- 73+: C
- 70+: C-
- 67+: D+
- 63: D
- 60: D-

Schedule is on brightspace in the syllabus folder and is subject to change.