MCS 210 : Computing In Society
Spring 2024 – Syllabus

Professor Information:

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Brief Course Summary:

This course is designed to discuss social and ethical implications of computing technology and the impact that has on society. It will be mostly a discussion and writing course with a group project at the end.

Course Materials:

- (Textbook-optional) Interaction Design 5th edition, Yvonne Rogers, Helen Sharp, Jennifer Preece. ISBN: 978-1119901099

- (Textbook-optional) Computer Ethics 4th edition, Deborah G. Johnson. ISBN: 978-0131112414

- (Book-required) You Look Like a Thing and I Love You, Janelle Shane. ISBN: 978-0316525244

- (Book-required) Invisible Women, Caroline Criado Perez. ISBN: 978-1419735219

- (Book-required)Cult of the Dead Cow, Joseph Menn. ISBN: 978-1541724426

- (Book-required) The Code book, Simon Singh ISBN: 978-0385495325

- (Book-required) Women of Color In Tech, Susanne Tedrick ISBN: 978-1119633488

- (Account-required) Overleaf Account

Course Description:

Computer scientists have the opportunity to design, implement, distribute, abuse, and avoid policies that affect the lives of millions of people. This course offers students an opportunity to explore some social, ethical, and legal issues they will face by introducing them to a wide range of current and important topics in Computer Science that includes technical issues, professional questions, and moral and ethical decisions. Students will learn the basic principles of Information Assurance and Human-Computer Interaction.

Departmental Student Learning Outcomes: Students will...

- Develop a precise specification of an algorithmic means of addressing a domain use case.

- Develop working software that satisfies a precise specification appropriately using standard programming paradigms such as imperative, object-oriented, and functional.

- Work and communicate effectively in pairs or teams.

- Identify real world impacts and/or ethical concerns relating to applications of computing and communicate these effectively, both to those in the discipline and to those not familiar with the discipline.

This course satisfies the WRITL requirement. WRITL

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will...

- Students distinguish and evaluate different forms of information and analyze the arguments that such information supports.

- Students use their own language to describe and analyze key concepts or course materials, and write to explore ideas, assimilate new knowledge, and reflect on the purpose of their learning.

- Students write arguments that make and support claims successfully for readers in multiple contexts.

- Students are able to draft, revise, and edit work with feedback from others.

Course Schedule Overview:
You will find a Tentative Calendar at the end of this syllabus. The course is divided into three parts. Part one consists of an introduction to Computer Ethics. Part two will cover current issues: in computing including Artificial Intellence, Data Bias, Encryption, Hacking, Careers and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues. Part three is an introduction to Human-Computer Interaction. Parts one and two will be assessed via writting activities ending with an essay. Part three will be assessed via writing activities and a design project to put into practice Interaction Design concepts. Details about each assessment type and overall course grading are in the following sections.

Course Grading:
We will be using a check system where you will only receive an actual grade at the end of the semester. The total completion rate of Writing activities, Essay, Peer evaluations, and the Project will determine your final grade at the end of the semester. Each Writing activity and Peer evaluations contributes to one count, Essay and Project contribute 2 counts each, for a grand total of 21 Activity counts. Attendance and the Reflection log will act as a ceiling for your grade. For example, you could complete all of the checkpoints, but if you attend 80% of time, or if your Reflection log is completed at 73%, your grade is capped at a C. Thus, the cap is determined by the lowest percentage of completion between Attendance and the Reflection log, and the caps are as follows: A: 93%, A-:90%, B+:87%, B:83%, B-:80%, C+:77%, C:73%, C-:70%, D+:67%, D:63%, D-:60%

Final Grade	Activity Counts
A	20
A-	18
B+	17
B	16
B-	15
C+	14
C	13
C-	11
D+	9
D	7
D-	5

Table 1

Scores will be available on the Moodle gradebook.

Attendance	54 days
Reflection Log	54 entries
Writing Assignments	13 counts (1 each)
Essay	2 counts
Peer Evaluations	4 counts (3 WA, 1 Essay)
Project	2 counts

Attendance:
Attendance in class is mandatory and will count toward your final grade. Attendance will affect your final grade depending on the total number of days you attend. The attendance rate becomes a grade ceiling at the end of the semester. Thus, if your attendance rate is 80% (43/54), your maximum possible grade is B, regardless of completion of other activities. If you need to miss a class, and only under extreme circumstances, you must email me before the absence occurs and/or you must provide sufficient and evidence of the absence. Otherwise your absence will not be excused. I reserve the right to determine what constitutes an extreme circumstance.

Reflection Log:
You will keep a log each day for which there is class. There are 54 class days, thus you will complete 54 log entries. You will write whatever you want reflecting upon the day's class, activities, readings you have done, and basically anything that is related to the course. This may be an opportunity for you to keep organized and up-to-date with the course activities. You may use the log to create lists or things to do, to hash ideas you have about the topics we discuss, to write questions you wish to discuss during another class, or to externalize opinions in an intelligent, respectful and informed manner. Each reflection log must be at least 800 characters long (not including whitespaces). You can use online tools like https://www.charactercountonline.com/ to determine to total number of characters you used. The reflection log will be evaluated by the professor for completion and coherence at the end of the semester. Each entry intro the Reflection log must be dated and must reflect something related to the class that day. If the reflection log does not reflect a consistent pattern of completion, the total rate will be determined subjectively by me. The Reflection log also constitutes a grade cap, and the lowest rate between this log and Attendance rate determines your overall cap.

Writing Activities:
You will complete a total of 13 writing activities. Some activities are more reflective, others are more about answering direct questions concisely, others are about following instructions and solving a problem. Some activities will require to be peer reviewed (refer to peer-review process).

All writing activities will be evaluated by the professor based on a specific rubric (posted in Moodle) which will determine if your submission is satisfactory or is unacceptable. In some instances, it may be eligible for revision and resubmission. You will have one day to revise and resubmit in those cases.

Essays:
You will write one essay for this course, and you will have a choice between two topics. The essay will require to be peer reviewed and will be evaluated with the same rubric as writing activities. (refer to peer-review process and see Moodle for evaluation rubric).

Peer review process:
All students will conduct a total of 4 peer reviews. Three for specific Writing Activities that call for a peer review, and one for the Essay. Peer evaluations will provide the writers insight on how to improve their manuscript. Comments to the author must be done in the same document in Overleaf with the use of in-line comments (using the % symbol in LATEX). You must include your name at the beginning of each comment so that both the author and myself can identify your contributions. All comments must be polite, refrain from using uncouth language, must make use of proper and appropriate terminology discussed in class or from references, and must provide constructive criticism and/or clear guidelines on how to address an issue. Even in rare instances where no recommendation is necessary, you must provide commentary validating the author's insights.

`Timeline for peer reviews:`

1. Student author completes the first draft by due date posted in Tentative Calendar and on Moodle.

2. Student author shares Overleaf manuscript with reviewer (The name of your reviewer will be posted with each activity in Moodle).

3. Reviewer posts comments and informs student author the review is completed (must be done in a timely manner).

4. Student author reads review and makes modification to manuscript, creating the final draft.

5. Student author submits .zip project from Overleaf into Moodle. The final draft due date is also posted in the Tentative Calendar and will be the cut-off date associated with the Moodle assignment. (Failure to submit the final draft by the cut-off date will receive no credit for this activity.)

6. Professor submits evaluation based on standard rubric. If eligible for resubmission, professor will inform the student author and re-open the Moodle project folder, at which point student author will have 24-hours to make the necessary changes.

The peer review process is essential for a successful submission and all students are responsible to submit reviews for activities that require a peer review. Failure to review an activity will result in no credit for reviewing. Reviewers that do not submit a first draft themselves will not receive review credit either.

Project:
This project will expose you to real-world problems so that you apply design techniques and use peer reviewed research methods to solve the problem. The project will be worked in groups of 2 or 3 students. Groups will be assigned randomly for simplicity, names of group members and more details about the project will be posted on Moodle. Refer to the tentative calendar for due dates.

Overleaf:
All writing activities including the Reflection Log, Writing Activities, Essay, Peer Reviews and Project deliverables, will be done in LaTeXusing Overleaf. You will need to create a free account with Overleaf, which allows you to share your projects with one other individual for peer reviews.

Late Work Policy:
Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines and make sure you understand the timeline for peer reviews described previously. Late work will not be accepted. If you are ill and unable to complete coursework, you must notify me as soon as possible, to make arrangements for alternative due dates. Except in truly exceptional circumstances, these arrangements must be made prior to the due dates that need to be adjusted.

Expectations:
Classes will consist of a combination of introducing new material, discussion, and working on activities. You should come to class prepared to work and engage with the material. I expect all students to participate when asked, to behave politely, and to respect your classmates questions and opinions. Unless I explicitly allow the use of a laptop in some classes, the use of electronic equipment is not allowed during discussions since it can become a distraction. To perform well you must attend every class, be active in class discussions, pay attention to due dates, stay up-to-date with the readings and activities, ask as many questions as necessary, and visit me during office hours as needed. Always refer to the tentative calendar for all activities and due dates.

Understand When You May Drop This Course:
It is your responsibility to understand when you need to consider dropping/withdrawing from a course. Refer to the Gustavus Academic Catalog for dates and deadlines for registration: https://gustavus.edu/general_catalog/current/calendar.

Incomplete Policy:
A grade of incomplete may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor, if requested by the student, under the following conditions:

1. the last day to withdraw has passed and,

2. the student has achieved at least a C- according to Table and,

3. an unforeseen circumstance beyond the student's control (usually restricted to illness or family emergency) preclude completion of the remaining work for the course by the semester deadline.

Note that poor planning or having a lot of work to complete at the end of the term are not, in fairness to other students, considered circumstances beyond a student's control. This additional time to complete coursework may not extend beyond the final day of the following semester. The grade "I" for a particular student, along with an expiration date, is reported at the end of the term to the Office of the Registrar on a special form, which is signed by both the instructor and the department chair. A temporary grade will also be submitted, in the computation of which the instructor has considered work not completed as a zero or an F. If before the end of the expiration date, the instructor reports a final grade to the Registrar, that grade will be recorded and the grade point average will be computed accordingly. When the expiration date has passed without a grade being reported, the temporary grade will replace the "I" and become a permanent part of the transcript record.

Academic Honesty and Gustavus Adolphus College Honor Code:
Students are expected to follow the Gustavus Adolphus College Honor Code. Gustavus Adolphus College is proud to operate under an honor system (https://gustavus.edu/general_catalog/current/acainfo). The faculty and students have jointly created an Honor Board to enforce the Honor Code and the Academic Honesty Policy. Each faculty member is responsible for stating course penalties for academic honesty violations, and for defining the level of authorized aid appropriate to the work in their courses. Each faculty member is also required to report violations of the Academic Honesty Policy to the Provost's

Office. It is your responsibility, as a student, to ask questions if you are not sure about situations such as when to cite a source, how to cite a source, sharing data with lab-mates, and avoiding inadvertent cheating when working in groups. It is also your responsibility to learn about the policy and the consequences for violations so please ask questions!

The overarching principle of the Academic Honesty Policy is that students shall submit their own work, in fairness to others and to self. Your Professor wants you, a developing scholar, to be able to take pride in your own academic work and to maintain your academic integrity. Citations must accompany any use of another's words or ideas that are not common knowledge. Quoting or paraphrasing from electronic sources without proper citation is as serious a violation as copying from a book or other printed source. A student may not submit work that is substantially the same in two courses without first gaining permission of both instructors if the courses are taken concurrently, or permission of the current instructor if the work has been submitted in a previous semester. Ask your Professor if you have questions about a particular assignment or kind of work. Please make sure you fully understand the rules related to online work, as it pertains to this course. Unauthorized aid during online exams and assignments is every bit as serious and inappropriate as it would be in an in-person course. In fact, in the online environment it is sometimes easier for faculty to detect violations.

Any substantive contribution to your lab or homework by another person or taken from a website or publication must be properly acknowledged in writing (by citing the source). Failure to do so is plagiarism and will necessitate disciplinary action.

As a guideline for collaboration, it is acceptable (and encouraged!) for students to get together in small groups to go over material from the lectures and text, solve problems from the text, study for exams, and discuss the general ideas and approaches to projects. However, you must never read or copy any part of another student's code or solutions, or share your code or solutions with anyone else in the class until after both parties have submitted the assignment.

Rules for the quizzes and exams will be clearly communicated, and must be followed. Failure to do so will necessitate disciplinary action.

The sanction in this course for a violation of the Honor Code involving plagiarism, copying another student on an exam, or other kinds of cheating on a single assignment will usually be an "F" on the plagiarized assignment or exam. For a more significant event or for multiple violations, I, your Professor, reserve the right to assign you a grade of "F" for the course. In addition, for any Honor Code violation, I will notify the Provost's Office. A letter will be generated by the Provost's Office and sent to you. The letter will remain on file. There will be no further consequence, beyond the course penalty and the letter, if you do not commit any further Honor Code violations. Repeat offenses could ultimately lead to dismissal from the College. You have the right to appeal any Honor Code violation through an Honor Board hearing process. In this course, your Professor aims for you to learn how to cite sources properly, do your own work on all exams, and function as a scholar with integrity. Please feel welcome to ask questions about the important matter of Academic Honesty and let me know how I can best support your learning.

Copyright and Recording:
Unless they have an approved academic accommodation that specifies recording, students

must request in writing permission from the instructor to record (audio or video) any component of this class. Any recording that includes other students will require that the class be given a general notification by the instructor (for an accommodation or instructor recording) or that those present give consent (for regular Zoom or Google Meet video conversations, etc.). Your instructor will not identify any student who has an approved accommodation. Recordings and videos of the class, as well as those produced as part of class instruction, are not to be posted or distributed in any format or on any platform without the written consent of the instructor. Posting any class recordings or materials (including excerpts and clips) to external sites or to social media will be considered a violation of this policy.

Some class materials may be copyrighted. Access to these materials is restricted to students registered for the class using a Gustavus password. These materials may not be reproduced, shared, or distributed by students, and are made available only to those currently enrolled in this class. If a tutor needs access to these materials in order to provide you with academic support, please ask your instructor for assistance.

Academic Accommodations:

Gustavus Adolphus College is committed to ensuring equitable and inclusive learning environments for all students. If you have a disability and anticipate or experience barriers to equal access, please speak with the accessibility resources staff about your needs. A disability may include mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, physical, and/or short-term conditions. When appropriate, staff will guide students and professors in making accommodations to ensure equal access. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively; therefore, to maximize your academic success at Gustavus, please contact them as early as possible. Accessibility resources staff are located in the Academic Support Center (https://gustavus.edu/asc/accessibility/) (x7227). Accessibility Resources Coordinator, Corrie Odland (codland@gustavus.edu), can provide further information.

Academic Accommodation for Religious Observance:

A student whose religious observance conflicts with a course requirement may request an academic accommodation from the instructor. Students should normally make such requests in writing by the end of the second week of classes, but there may be exceptions. Students may also request accommodations for religious traditions surrounding death and dying when the need arises. The Chaplains' Office annually publishes a multifaith holiday calendar with accommodation notations. You can find it here: https://gustavus.edu/chaplain/multifaith/. However, this list is not exhaustive and observances are not necessarily days when individuals will not attend work or school. There are also different levels of observance in different traditions. The Chaplains' Office is available for consultation on any requests for accommodation that are not included in their calendar.

Multilingual Student Support:

Some Gusties may have grown up speaking a language (or languages) other than English at home. If so, we refer to you as "multilingual." Your multilingual background is an incredible resource for you, and for our campus, but it can come with some challenges. You can find support through the Center for International and Cultural Education's (https://gustavus.edu/cice/) Multilingual and Intercultural Program Coordinator (MIPC), Pamela Pearson

(ppearson@gustavus.edu). Pamela can meet individually for tutoring in writing, consulting about specific assignments, and helping students connect with the College's support systems. If you want help with a specific task (for example, reading word problems on an exam quickly enough or revising grammar in essays), let your professor and Pamela know as soon as possible. In addition, the Writing Center (https://gustavus.edu/writingcenter/) offers tutoring from peers (some of whom are themselves multilingual) who can help you do your best writing.

Mental Wellbeing:
The Gustavus community is committed to and cares about all students. Strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating, and/or lack of motivation may affect a student's academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. If you or someone you know expresses such mental health concerns or experiences a stressful event that can create barriers to learning, Gustavus services are available to assist you, and include online options. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential health services available on campus at https://gustavus.edu/counseling/ and https://gustavus.edu/deanofstudents/services/.

Title IX: Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Resources:
Gustavus Adolphus College recognizes the dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. As such, we are committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination including sexual and gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence like sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or is experiencing these types of behaviors, know that you are not alone. Resources and support are available; you can learn more online at https://gustavus.edu/titleix/.
Please know that if you choose to confide in me, I am required by the College to report to the Title IX Coordinator, because Gustavus and I want to be sure you are connected with all the support the College can offer. Although it is encouraged, you are not required to respond to outreach from the College if you do not want to. You may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART/CADA), Chaplains, Counseling Center, or Health Service staff; conversations with these individuals can be kept strictly confidential. SART/CADA can be reached 24 hours a day at 507-933-6868. You can also make a report yourself, including an anonymous report, through the form at https://gustavus.edu/titleix/.

Couse Communications and Moodle:
The course Moodle site is the main communication platform for this class, and should be accessed several times a week. I will post all class materials, assignment and exam dates, grades, and class information and will make announcements on Moodle.

Tentative Calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2/5 **1** Syllabus/Overleaf and LATEX	2/6 **2** Ethics	2/7 ———————	2/8 **3** Ethics	2/9 **4** WA1 - first draft
2/12 **5** WA1 - final draft	2/13 **6** Ethics	2/14 ———————	2/15 **7** Ethics	2/16 **8** WA2 - first draft
2/19 **9** WA2 - final draft	2/20 **10** Ethics	2/21 ———————	2/22 **11** Ethics	2/23 **12** WA3 - first draft
2/26 **13** WA3 - final draft YLLAT 1	2/27 **14** YLLAT 2,3	2/28 ———————	2/29 **15** YLLAT 4	3/1 **16** YLLAT 7
3/4 **17** WA4 - final draft CB - Intro,3	3/5 **18** CB - 4,5	3/6 ———————	3/7 **19** CB - 6	3/8 **20** CB - 7
3/11 **21** WA5 - final draft CODC - 1,2	3/12 **22** CODC - 3	3/13 ———————	3/14 **23** CODC - 7,8	3/15 **24** CODC - 9
3/18 **25** CODC - 10	3/19 **26** CODC - 11 _{@CSUN}	3/20 ———————	3/21 **27** CODC - 12 _{@CSUN}	3/22 **28** WA6 - final draft CODC - 13 _{@CSUN}
3/25 SPRING BREAK	3/26 SPRING BREAK	3/27 SPRING BREAK	3/28 SPRING BREAK	3/29 SPRING BREAK
4/1 **29** WOC - 1,2	4/2 **30** WOC - 3.4	4/3 ———————	4/4 **31** WOC - 5,8	4/5 **32** Essay - first draft
4/8 **33** WOC - 9,10	4/9 **34** WA7 - final draft IW - 1,2	4/10 ———————	4/11 **35** IW - 3,4	4/12 **36** IW - 5,6
4/15 **37** IW - 7,8	4/16 Advising Day	4/17 ———————	4/18 **38** IW - 9, 14	4/19 **39** IW - 14
4/22 **40** Essay - final draft WA8 - final draft	4/23 **41**	4/24 ———————	4/25 **42**	4/26 **43** WA9 - final draft

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4/29 **44**	4/30 **45** WA10 - final draft	5/1	5/2 **46**	5/3 **47** WA11 - final draft
5/6 **48**	5/7 **49** WA12 - final draft	5/8	5/9 **50**	5/10 **51** WA13 - final draft
5/13 **52** Project	5/14 **53** Project	5/15	5/16 **54** Project Due Reflect Log Due	5/17 Reading Day

Legend:

- ALL ACTIVITIES ARE DUE BY 11PM ON DAY INDICATED

- Writing assignment or Essay submitted for peer review

- Writing Assignment or Essay submission on Moodle for professor review

- YLLAT - You look like a thing and I love you

- CB - Code Book

- CODC - Cult of the Dead Cow

- WOC - Women of Color in Tech

- IW - Invisible Women

- @CSUN - Tentatively: professor at CSUN conference. Remote or substitute teaching.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is meant as a guideline and the calendar is tentative. The calendar may me subject to change depending on unforeseen circumstances.