

Course Syllabus

CS3604:

Course Objectives: Professionalism in Computing examines the ethical, social, and professional concerns of computer science fields and work. Topics focus on the social impact of computing, implications and effects of computing on society, and the responsibilities of computer professionals in directing related emerging technologies. Topics are studied through case studies of technologies. Specific studies are augmented by an overview of history, psychology, legal and ethical dimensions of computing. This is a web-supported course, incorporating writing exercises, and making extensive use of active learning tools.

Course learning objectives and topical outline are described in detail in the Unit Overviews (see Modules):

Prerequisites: CS 1944, CS 2114 (C or better), COMM 2004

Required text and tools:

- Canvas Modules (free)
- Packback (\$49 online subscription) - see below

Grading :

- **Reading** (Modules) = 20%
- **Discussions** (Packback Questions) = 20%
- **Case Study** = 30%
- **Unit Essays** (Packback Deep Dives) = 20%
- **In Class Participation** = 10%

% Score		Scale
100 - 94	->	A
93 - 90	->	A-
89 - 87	->	B+
86 - 84	->	B
83 - 80	->	B-
79 - 77	->	C+
76 - 74	->	C
73 - 70	->	C-
69 - 67	->	D+

66 - 64	->	D
63 - 60	->	D-
59 - 0	->	F

Distribution percentages and grade scale are subject to change.

Attendance:

Students are responsible for material, content, and announcements, including schedule changes, conveyed in class meetings. While significant course material is available and delivered online, this is not a self-paced or self-guided course. Crucial material is provided in class and not available otherwise. Students are responsible for in-class material and for contributing as a group. Attendance and in-class participation might be assigned and graded, and by submitting in-class assignments, you are representing by the honor code that you are present and participating.

GENERAL SUPPORT AND WELL-BEING:

Supporting the mental health and well-being of students in my class is of high priority to me and Virginia Tech. If you are feeling overwhelmed academically, having trouble functioning, or are worried about a friend, please reach out to any of the following offices:

- Cook Counseling:
 - 540-231-6557 to schedule an appointment and/or 24/7 crisis support
 - [ucc.vt.edu](http://www.ucc.vt.edu) for more information
- Dean of Students Office:
 - 540 231-3787 for general advice
 - 540-231-6411 for after-hours crisis
 - [dos.vt.edu](http://www.dos.vt.edu) for more information
- Hokie Wellness:
 - [hokiewellness.vt.edu](http://www.hokiewellness.vt.edu) for more information about health and wellness workshops and consultations
- Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)
 - 540-231-3788 or [ssd.vt.edu](http://www.ssd.vt.edu) for more information about accommodations and other disability-related supports

For a full listing of campus resources check out [well-being.vt.edu](http://www.well-being.vt.edu) (<http://www.well-being.vt.edu/>)

Please also feel free to speak with me. I will make an effort to work with you. I care about you.

ACCOMODATIONS:

If you need any additional accommodations, please ask. I'm more than happy to work with you within the guidance and constraints of the rules in place.

Virginia Tech welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. The University promotes efforts to provide equal access and a culture of inclusion without altering the essential elements of coursework. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers that may be due to disability, including but not limited to ADHD, chronic or temporary medical conditions, deaf or hard of hearing, learning disability, mental health, or vision impairment, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office (540-231-3788, ssd@vt.edu, or visit ssd.vt.edu). If you have an SSD accommodation letter, please meet with me privately during office hours as early in the semester as possible to deliver your letter and discuss your accommodations. You must give me reasonable notice to implement your accommodations, which is generally 5 business days and 10 business days for final exams.

If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

Academic Integrity Statement:

The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

"As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do."

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

Honor Code Pledge for Assignments:

The Virginia Tech honor pledge for assignments is as follows:

"I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment."

The pledge applies to all graded assignments, and submission represents both an expression of the student's support of the honor code and an unambiguous acknowledgment that the student has, on the assignment in question, abided by the obligation that the Honor Code entails. In the absence of a written honor pledge, the Honor Code still applies to an assignment.

Assignments and Honor Code:

1. All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor Code. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.
2. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic misconduct. This listing is not, however, exclusive of other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute academic misconduct. Clarification is provided for each definition

with some examples of prohibited behaviors in the Undergraduate Honor Code Manual located at www.honorsystem.vt.edu:

3. **CHEATING:** Cheating includes the intentional use of unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise, or attempts thereof.
4. **PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, programming, computer code, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing off the same as one's own original work, or attempts thereof.
5. **FALSIFICATION:** Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any element of one's academic work, or attempts thereof.
6. **FABRICATION:** Fabrication includes making up data and results, and recording or reporting them, or submitting fabricated documents, or attempts thereof.
7. **MULTIPLE SUBMISSION:** Multiple submission involves the submission for credit—without authorization of the instructor receiving the work—of substantial portions of any work (including oral reports) previously submitted for credit at any academic institution, or attempts thereof.
8. **COMPLICITY:** Complicity includes intentionally helping another to engage in an act of academic misconduct, or attempts thereof.
9. **VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENTAL, PROGRAM, COURSE, OR FACULTY RULES:** The violation of any University, College, Departmental, Program, Course, or Faculty Rules relating to academic matters that may lead to an unfair academic advantage by the student violating the rule(s).

Generative AI Policy:

This course considers the ethical and social impact of algorithms and computational tools as part and parcel of its subject matter, and as such, we appreciate the value and limitations of these tools. Use of generative AI like ChatGPT is allowed in accordance with the spirit and goals of assignments, and student use of these tools for deeper understanding of their function as well as for their value as a learning resource is encouraged.

However, significant copy/paste from ChatGPT clearly violates the GAI policy, and potentially plagiarizes someone somewhere. It can and will show up despite the unreliability of GAI flagging tools.

If you use a generative AI tool, you need to inform us by referencing it in your work.

The use of Generative AI does NOT alleviate students from the responsibility of insuring original work that avoids plagiarism, unintentional or otherwise. Generative AI can and will generate significant ideas and text that could be considered a violation of copyright or copyleft. Assessment of student work might check and flag content that is deemed likely to be machine generated. Whether or not it actually was generated, the flag can be meaningful and should be acknowledged as an indication of some measure of quality and originality. In sum, feel free to use Generative AI tools, but use them in ways that recognize and allow for better understanding of their function and limitations in accordance with the educational mission.

Packback Questions

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussions about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be

fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Your participation in Packback discussions will count toward 20% of your overall course grade.

There will be a weekly (Saturday at 11:59PM) deadline for submissions. In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question due every THURSDAY with a minimum Curiosity Score of 65
- 2 Responses every SATURDAY with a minimum Curiosity Score of 65
- Half credit will be provided for questions and responses that do not meet the minimum curiosity score.


Packback Deep Dives

Packback Deep Dives will be used to assess independent research skills and improve academic communication through long-form (essay) writing assignments. While completing the summative writing prompts on Deep Dives, you will interact with a Research Assistant that will help you gather your notes and cite your sources, and a Digital Writing Assistant for in-the-moment feedback and guidance on your writing. These unit essays will count toward 20% of your overall course grade.


How to Register on Packback:

Note: Only access Packback through **Canvas** in order to ensure your grades sync properly

1. Click “Packback” within **Canvas** to access the community.
2. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.
3. **In order for your grade to be visible in Canvas**, make sure to only access Packback via **Canvas**.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing  [\(http://www.packback.co/product/pricing\)](https://www.packback.co/product/pricing) for more information.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co  [\(http://help.packback.co/\)](https://help.packback.co/). If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video:














<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmkrD68>  [\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmkrD68\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmkrD68)





















(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmkrD68>)



Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Jan 22, 2025	Week 1 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2356040)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 24, 2025	Syllabus Professionalism and Ethics Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279580)	due by 2:30pm
Mon Jan 27, 2025	CyberEthics Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279579)	due by 2:30pm
Tue Jan 28, 2025	Sign Up (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2292438)	due by 5pm
Sat Feb 1, 2025	Packback #1 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291709)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 3, 2025	History of Internet and Net Neutrality Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279573)	due by 2:30pm
Sat Feb 8, 2025	Packback #2 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291708)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 9, 2025	Internet and ICT (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291710)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 10, 2025	Intellectual Property Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279574)	due by 2:30pm
Thu Feb 13, 2025	2/13 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2363328)	due by 6:30pm

Date	Details	Due
Sat Feb 15, 2025	 Packback #3 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291707)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 16, 2025	 Intellectual Property (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291713)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 17, 2025	 Algorithmic Decision Making Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279582)	due by 2:30pm
Tue Feb 18, 2025	 2/18 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2365247)	due by 6:30pm
Thu Feb 20, 2025	 2/20 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2365250)	due by 6:30pm
Sat Feb 22, 2025	 Packback #4 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291716)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 24, 2025	 Machine Learning and AI Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279575)	due by 2:30pm
Tue Feb 25, 2025	 2/25 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2370333)	due by 6:30pm
Thu Feb 27, 2025	 2/27 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2370334)	due by 6:30pm
Sat Mar 1, 2025	 Packback #5 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291714)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Mar 4, 2025	 3/4 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2371511)	due by 6:30pm
Thu Mar 6, 2025	 3/6 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2371517)	due by 6:30pm
Sat Mar 8, 2025	 Packback #6 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291717)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Mar 9, 2025	 Algorithms (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291712)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 17, 2025	 Privacy Policy Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279578)	due by 2:30pm
Tue Mar 18, 2025	 S25 Course Feedback Survey (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2372343)	due by 3:30pm
Thu Mar 20, 2025	 3/20 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2375465)	due by 5pm
Sat Mar 22, 2025	 Packback #7 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291723)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 24, 2025	 Privacy in Public Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279577)	due by 2:30pm
Tue Mar 25, 2025	 3/25 Participation Survey (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2376537)	due by 4:45pm
Thu Mar 27, 2025	 3/27 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2379165)	due by 5pm
Sat Mar 29, 2025	 Packback #8 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291715)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 1, 2025	 4/1 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2382716)	due by 5pm
Thu Apr 3, 2025	 4/3 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2382724)	due by 5pm
Sat Apr 5, 2025	 Packback #9 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291720)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 6, 2025	 Privacy (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291711)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 7, 2025	 Behavioral Design Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279581)	due by 2:30pm

Date	Details	Due
Tue Apr 8, 2025	 4/8 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2386096)	due by 5pm
Thu Apr 10, 2025	 4/10 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2386097)	due by 5pm
Sat Apr 12, 2025	 Packback #10 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291719)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 15, 2025	 4/15 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2389932)	due by 5pm
Sat Apr 19, 2025	 Packback #11 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291721)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 21, 2025	 Social Media and Gaming Quiz (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279576)	due by 2:30pm
Sat Apr 26, 2025	 Packback #12 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291724)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 29, 2025	 Proposal (Group) (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2353925)	due by 11:59pm
Sat May 3, 2025	 Packback #13 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291722)	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 4, 2025	 Behavioral Design (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291718)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 9, 2025	 Presentation (Group) (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2279586)	due by 11:59pm
	 1/30 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2357728)	
	 2/4 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2357742)	
	 2/6 Attendance (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2359287)	

Date	Details	Due
	 Report (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2291517)	
	 Service Learning: Ut Prosim (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/204864/assignments/2281689)	