CSCI 4600: Senior Seminar
Spring 2023 Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Vincent A. Cicirello **Office:** G116
E-mail (course related): Use course Blackboard Course Messages tool. **Phone (office):** x3526
E-mail (other than this course): See campus directory for address.

Masks Required in this Class: Per Stockton's current COVID policy (as of the writing of this syllabus), faculty may require masks to be worn in classes. If Stockton's policy changes, we'll adjust the course mask policy for consistency as needed. For now, masks must be worn during class. The information desk in the Campus Center, as well as the library, has masks freely available if you forget to bring one.

Course Time and Location:
- Wednesdays, 3:35pm-5:25pm, B010 (attendance is mandatory).
- Take note of the portion of your overall grade that comes from participation and attendance. If you don't attend a class session, you will lose part of your participation/attendance grade.
- Also note that the course is 2-credits, which is why it meets only 2 hours per week.

Office Hours:
- Mondays/Wednesdays, 12:45pm-2:00pm, G116 **[Mask required]**
- Other days/times by appointment

Pre-reqs: Minimum grade of C in the following CSCI 3103, CSCI 3250, CSCI 2226, and MATH 2216.

Restrictions: Juniors/Seniors only, and Computer Science majors

Number of Credits: 2

Course Description: In this seminar, computer science majors learn to evaluate the impact of current computing practice and trends; and gain an understanding of professional, ethical, and legal responsibilities. Students read and report on articles from the computing literature, and also develop a professional resume.

This course fulfills Stockton University's Values/Ethics (V) requirement.

Required Readings:
- ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/about/acm-code-of-ethics-and-professional-conduct.pdf)
- Journal articles and conference papers
- Computing ethics case studies

Course IDEA Objectives: The IDEA objectives of this course include:
- Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., ACM Code of Ethics, introduction to intellectual property laws and issues, etc).
- Developing skill in expressing myself orally or in writing (e.g., writing and presenting on a current computing topic).
- Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth.
- Developing ethical reasoning and/or ethical decision making.
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Computer Science Student Outcomes: This course supports students in their development of the following Computer Science student outcomes:

- Outcome 3: An ability to communicate effectively in a variety of professional contexts.
  - 3.b: Students will create and present oral technical presentations.
  - 3.c: Students will write technical reports on a current computing topic.
- Outcome 4: An ability to recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgments in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles.
  - 4.a: Students will know the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
  - 4.b: Students will evaluate case studies of ethical dilemmas in computing.
  - 4.c: Students will demonstrate understanding of intellectual property issues.

Grading:	Attendance / participation:	15%
	Exam (ethics, intellectual property, license agreements, etc)	25%
	Annotated bibliography:	25%
	Presentation:	20%
	Professional resume:	15%

Grading Scale:

A: at least 90.00	A-: at least 89.00	B+: at least 88.00
B: at least 80.00	B-: at least 79.00	C+: at least 78.00
C: at least 70.00	C-: at least 69.00	D+: at least 68.00
D: at least 60.00	D-: at least 59.00	F: less than 59.00

I reserve the right to adjust the scale at the end of the semester. Such adjustments are rare, but will only be in your favor; and are highly unlikely to occur at the D-/F boundary. Note the 2 decimal places in the chart above (i.e., I do not round to the nearest whole number): e.g., unless I adjust the grade scale, an 89.99 is an A-, etc. If I adjust the scale, it is done using a semi-automated approach involving clustering (i.e., "automated" == a program I wrote suggests a new scale based on all of the grades of the class; "semi-" == if that program's output is crazy, I ignore it and leave the scale alone; and "clustering" == a statistical technique). I never simply add a constant number of points to everyone's overall course score. What is clustering? For a non-technical explanation, consider the hypothetical question, "Are the grades of this student, who is currently in the B range, more like the grades of the A students than the rest of the B students, or somewhere in between the two?" Clustering may take a student in the B range from the scale above (at least 80.00 but less than 88.00), and either keep them in the B range if their grades are more like the rest of the B students, or bump them all the way up to the A range if their grades are more like the A students, or bump them partially up to either B+ or A- if they are somewhere in between.

Other Grade Related Info: This course is a core required course for the B.S. in Computer Science, and must be passed with at least a C to count toward your degree requirements.

Attendance and Participation: This portion of your grade is not free points. Attendance is mandatory. Participation includes interacting with any guest speakers, as well as participating in all in-class activities, which may include peer-review/peer-editing of resumes, annotated bibliographies, etc. Participation also includes interacting with student presenters (asking questions, etc). If you miss class due to illness, please provide documentation when you are able to return to your classes to avoid losing attendance/participation points. Provide the documentation of your illness to Stockton's Wellness Center and ask them to contact your course instructors. Likewise, if you will miss class due to a religious holiday, you must inform me of the dates of those absences in writing (e.g., a message in Blackboard is fine) within the first 10 business days of the semester (see the Stockton policy: https://stockton.edu/policy-procedure/documents/procedures/2030.pdf).

Exam on Ethics and Intellectual Property: There will be one exam in the course that will cover computing ethics, including specifically the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, as well as Intellectual Property, including licensing agreements. **The exam is closed book and closed notes. You are not allowed to use any resources during the exam.** The majority of the quiz is multiple choice, true/false, short answer type questions (which is why you are not allowed notes---it would be far too easy with notes). However, there is one essay question involving an ethics case study. That essay question involves reading a short case study involving an ethical dilemma, and writing a 3 to 5 paragraph essay in response to a question about that case study. In your response to that essay question, you should utilize the ACM Code of Ethics, wherever appropriate, in support of your analysis.

Make-Up Exam: Make-up exams will not be given (i.e., missed exam = 0), with the following exceptions:

1. Medical excuse: Provide documentation. I suggest providing the documentation to the Wellness Center who will then contact all of the instructors of your courses.
2. Based on University policy (https://stockton.edu/policy-procedure/documents/procedures/2030.pdf), if you are to be absent for a religious holiday on the date of an exam, you must notify me of that planned absence during the first 10 business days of the semester.

Annotated Bibliography: During the semester, you will write an annotated bibliography, including summaries and your analysis of a minimum of 5 technical articles (from journals or peer-reviewed conferences) from any topic of computing of your choosing. Your analysis of the articles you read should include a discussion of the potential impact that the research has on individuals, organizations, or society as a whole. The ACM Digital Library, available through the Stockton University library website, is an excellent source of articles, although you are not limited to what is contained there.

Presentation: During the last several weeks of the semester, each student will give a presentation (approximately 15 minutes) discussing one or more of the articles that you read. Your presentation should make appropriate use of PowerPoint and/or other relevant presentation materials. Shortly after the drop-add period is over, I will enable a signup page in Blackboard where you will get to choose the date of your presentation on a first come first served basis. You will lose substantial attendance/participation points if you do not attend on days when students are presenting (you will lose more points on such a day than if you miss class on another day). You will have the opportunity to ask each other questions about your presentations, so make sure you are also prepared to answer each other's questions.

Professional Resume: You will develop (or revise, if you already have one) a professional resume. You can find detailed expectations in Blackboard. We will have a guest speaker from the Career Center on resume writing.

Late Policy: Assignments are graded on a 100 point scale. Penalty is 1 point for each hour (or part of an hour) late. For example, submit an assignment 10 hours late and lose 10 points of the assignment's grade. Submit an assignment 1.25 hours late, and lost 2 points. Submit an assignment a full day late and lose 24 points off the assignment's grade.

Incomplete Policy: In general, no grades of incomplete will be given. The only exception to this rule is an institutionally documented medical emergency that necessitates your complete absence from Stockton for at least two continuous semester weeks. Additionally, you must be caught up on all work up to the point where your medical emergency began and currently in the "C" range or better overall at the point where the emergency began.

Academic Honesty: Please familiarize yourself with Stockton's policy on academic honesty. Each violation is penalized by a 0 on the relevant assignment/exam/etc, plus a 10 point penalty on your overall course grade. For example, if you have one violation, you'll have a 0 on that assignment or exam plus 10 points off your overall average, but if you have two violations, you'll have grades of 0 on the two assignments/exams/etc and 20 points off your overall average. Example violations include, but are not limited to: (a) any form of cheating on an exam or assignment, (b) passing off the work of another as your own (including other students, former students, websites, etc), (c) assisting someone in violating the academic honesty policy, (d) asking someone to assist you in cheating or other academic honesty violations (even if they refuse to help you cheat), etc. [Yes, I encountered that last one once in a General Studies course.] **Reminder from earlier in syllabus: the exam is closed notes, and you are not allowed any resources during the exam.**

Timeline: The following chart indicates approximately what we will be doing during each class meeting. The 3rd column also lists when assignments are due. This timeline is subject to change based on unforeseen circumstances that may arise during the semester.

Date	**Topic**	**Assignments Due**
January 18	Course overview	
January 25	Computing ethics	
February 1	Computing ethics / Intellectual property	
February 8	Intellectual property	
February 15	Peer review and feedback on annotated bibliography drafts. See Blackboard for expectations on draft.	Draft 1 of annotated bibliography, by class time, bring 3 paper copies to class, and submit electronically.
February 22	**Exam**	
March 1	Career Center Resume Presentation	
March 8	Work on your annotated bibliography during class time.	Annotated Bibliography final version (March 10, 11:59pm)
March 15	**Spring Break Week: No Class**	
March 22	Student presentations	Slides of presenters due 11:59pm
March 29	**NO CLASS:** Advising Day	
April 5	Student presentations	Slides of presenters due 11:59pm
April 12	Student presentations	Slides of presenters due 11:59pm
April 19	Student presentations	Slides of presenters due 11:59pm
April 26	Student presentations	Slides of presenters due 11:59pm
May 3	No meeting during finals week	Resume due (May 3, 11:59pm)