CSCI 300: Social Responsibility in Computer Science
Fall 2024

Instructor: Jeff Lucas
Email: jhlucas1@olemiss.edu
Office: 205 Weir Hall
Office Hours: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tue, Thur, Fri or by appointment.

Class Location and Meeting Time: Weir 235; Section 1 - Monday 12:00-12:50p.m.; Section 2 - Wednesday 12:00-12:50p.m.

Course Description:
Study of the nature of and need for social responsibility and ethical behavior in computing and the computer professions.

Prerequisites: CSci/CIS 211 or CSci 223; 24 Credit Hours

Course Outcomes:
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Consider ethical, legal, and social consequences of computing related issues.
2. Make appropriate decisions using ethical and legal concepts.
3. Consider all arguments for and against their ethical and legal position on a computing related issue.

Required Texts:
A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology, Sara Baase and Timothy Henry, 2021, Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780137501946

Instruction Methods:
- **In Class**: Lecture, group discussions.
- **Homework**: Case study readings in prep for discussions; essays arguing your position on selected readings from the textbook and other provided sources.

Grade Scale:
A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 0-59

Grade Weights:

Discussions	30%
Takeaways	20%
Essay 1	25%
Essay 2	25%
Total	**100%**

Attendance:
You are expected to attend every class meeting. **Three or more** absences will result in **0%** allocated to Discussions in your final average calculation.

Group Discussions:
Group membership will be randomly selected, and we will swap membership 3 times throughout the semester. Groups will be allotted class time to discuss amongst themselves case studies, and then report their findings and thoughts to the class.

Earning Points:
The group is graded as a **whole.** Each group member earns the **same** discussion grade. In general, the group earns points if the discussion is engaging, inquisitive, and respectful. Points are earned by:
- Offering well-reasoned statements.
- Supporting statements with references to textbook or other sources.
- Asking insightful questions.
- Being constructive and tactful when challenging others' statements.
- Listening attentively while others speak.

Losing Points:
Absolutely no demeaning or denigrating of others is allowed during discussions. If this occurs, **all** earned points for that particular discussion are lost.

Takeaways:
A "takeaways" short answer assignment will open in Blackboard after each group discussion. These are individual assignments. Briefly state the major ethical issues raised in your group and your thoughts on them. Takeaways should be limited to 50 words or less. Takeaways must be submitted within 24-hours of the class meeting.

Essays:
There are 2 essay assignments. I will provide the topic for each. You are to write a 1 - 2 page (2 page maximum) argumentative essay stating your position and opinions on the topic. A full grading rubric will be provided in Blackboard when each essay is assigned.

Generative AI Policy:
Use of generative AI tools (ChatGPT, CoPilot, Gemini, etc.) is limited to "brainstorming" topics only, i.e., information gathering/clarification. **Using an AI to write an essay, in part or whole, is strictly prohibited.** Violation of this policy will result in a 0 for the essay.

The point of the essays is to convey **YOUR** thoughts and opinions on the topic. This requires introspection and reflection, not regurgitation of AI generated text.

Missed Takeaways/Essays and Drop Grade:
There are no make-up takeaways, and essays will not be accepted late. Your lowest takeway grade will be dropped. **There is no drop grade for essays**.

Student Disabilities Services:
Contact the Office of Student Disability Services (http://sds.olemiss.edu/) to inquire about the services available. Students must submit an Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodation form to each instructor before direct classroom accommodations will be provided. This must be done on a timely basis so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.

Academic integrity:
The University expects all students to familiarize themselves with the values and standards reflected in its policies and to honor those values and standards in their conduct as individuals and groups. These policies are outlined in the M Book. The University Policy Directory gives a complete listing of the policies. This course will follow the University's academic discipline policies and procedures. **Academic misconduct may result in penalties ranging from a**

grade reduction on an assignment to expulsion from the course, depending on the severity of the violation.

Syllabus Alterations:
All items within this syllabus are subject to change as the semester progresses.

Schedule:

Week Of	Topic	Essays
8/26	Intro to Ethics	
9/2	**Labor Day - Neither Mon or Wed section will meet**	
9/9	Ch8: Errors, Failures, Risks	
9/16	Ch1: Unwrapping the Gift	Essay 1 Assigned
9/23	Ch2: Privacy	
9/30	Ch3: Freedom of Speech	Essay 1 Due
10/7	Ch4: Intellectual Property **Midterm Grades Due**	
10/14	Ethical Implications of AI	
10/21	Ch5: Crime and Security	
10/28	Ch6: Work	Essay 2 Assigned
11/4	Ch7: Evaluating and Controlling Tech	
11/11	Ch9: Professional Ethics	
11/18	Ethical Hacking and Pen Testing	Essay 2 Due
11/25	**Thanksgiving Break**	
12/2	Wrap Up	
12/9	**No Final Exam**	