CSCE 4010 Social Issues in Computing

Instructor Dr. Yuan, xiaohui.yuan@unt.edu
Class hours online
Office Hours by appointment, office: NTDP F277
TA TBA

Description
An exploration of the effects of technology in modern society, with emphasis on the role of engineering and technical professionals.

Course Outcomes
By the end of this course, you will:
1) Be aware of the social implications of computing;
2) Have a working knowledge of basic computer-related law;
3) Understand the need for computer ethics;
4) Have communicated effectively orally about a topic related to social and ethical issues in computing;
5) Have communicated effectively in writing about a topic related to social and ethical issues in computing.

Text Book (required)

Course Organization
Students are required to read each chapter and to participate the online discussions. Each student must respond to at least one question listed at the end of a chapter and make at least two comments on other students’ messages. Descriptive, meaningful responses and comments are required.

During the class meeting time, students are required to post their responses in the forums. Each forum is automatically closed by the end of the day.

Online presentations are scheduled several times during the semester. Each student/team must make presentation via online tools as specified in the Backboard. Since these are not face-to-face meetings, please check technology readiness ahead of time to ensure success presentation.

Grading
Grade will be determined based on class discussion and participation, presentation, and term paper. Course participation is required for online discussions in the UNT Blackboard system.

The term paper will be 4 pages (excluding references), single spaced, double-column (except title and author information) and 10pt font (either Times Roman or Arial). Each page has 1 inch margin on top and bottom and 0.75 inch margin on left and right sides. The first line of each paragraph must indent by 0.25in. A template in Microsoft Word format is provided in the term paper assignment description. This format will be strictly enforced and failing to follow this format will result in losing 20% of the total grade of the term paper.

Presentations are required to discuss the problem studied in the term paper and can take up to 20 minutes each.

Grading rubric for online discussions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Adequate</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>0 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion is rich in content and full of analysis and insight.</td>
<td>Discussion has adequate analysis and insight</td>
<td>Incomplete or incorrect content discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>3 points</td>
<td>0 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Few grammatical or stylistic errors</td>
<td>Several grammatical or stylistic errors</td>
<td>numerous grammatical or stylistic errors, which interfere with the content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeliness</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>3 points</td>
<td>0 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All required postings submitted and follow-up responses completed in timely manner</td>
<td>Some postings submitted and follow-up responses submitted but not in time for others to respond</td>
<td>No posting or response submitted</td>
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</table>
The following policies apply to all assignments (unless specifically stated in an individual assignment):

- **Blackboard stops accepting assignments at the due time.** To avoid receiving a zero, it is recommended that you periodically upload intermediate versions of your assignments and then overwrite them later. If something unexpected should come up you will at least have something submitted.
- **All work submitted is to be your own original work and all materials used must be properly cited.**
- **The final grade is calculated with the following weights:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>25% (100 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>25% (100 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and discussion</td>
<td>50% (200 pts)</td>
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**Grading Scale:**
- A = 360 - 400 points
- B = 320 - 359 points
- C = 280 - 319 points
- D = 240 - 279 points
- F = 0 – 239 points

**Technology Requirements and Helps**

You must have reliable access to a computer and to the Internet. Because technology has a tendency to fail us at the moment we need it the most, you should have a “Plan B”: a computer lab on campus, a library’s computer, a coffee shop or an Internet café.

If you have problems with Blackboard online system, use the following technical hotlines for help:

**UNT Denton Contact Information**

Email: clearhelp@unt.edu
Phone: (940) 369-7394
In person: Chilton Hall, Room 112C

**Support Hours**

Mon - Thu: 8am-9pm; Fri: 8am-5pm; Sat: 11am-3pm; Sun: Closed

If you need immediate assistance after hours, contact the UIT Student Help Desk at

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324

**Absenteism Policy**

Attendance is required of all students without exception. Absence is only allowed in the extreme circumstances, e.g., medical emergence. Written evidence is required no later than 5 days after the absence. If a student misses four (4) online discussions, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from the course or receive an F grade.

**Collaboration and Cheating**

Collaboration among students is encouraged. You may discuss the assignments with other students. All work which you turn in must be completely prepared by yourself.

Cheating will NOT be tolerated. Students guilty of cheating will be given an F in the course. Allowing others to copy your work is also considered cheating. For further details and clarifications regarding collaboration and cheating, view the university Student Rights and Responsibilities web page.

**Course Evaluation**

At the end of the semester you will be asked to participate in multiple evaluations of the course and the instructor. In addition to the written evaluations, and the department survey, UNT is now required to offer students The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE). This survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work continually to improve my teaching.

There will also be a survey from the department to evaluate your achievement in this course. Taking this survey is strongly encouraged.

**ADA**

UNT complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services please contact the Office of Disability Accommodation.