

CS 371 Computer Ethics and Technical Communication

Syllabus

Description

This course explores moral responsibilities and ethical decision-making by applying ethical theories, professional ethics and codes of conduct, and cyber-related law to cyber-ethical issues, such as privacy, security, and cybercrime. In addition, this course uses human-computer interaction development and other industry standards, such as white papers and user manuals, to reinforce technical writing concepts.

Important Information

Course Name	CS 371 Computer Ethics and Technical Communication
CRN	74160
Credits	3+0
Course Type	Web
Instructor	Dr. Jonathan Metzgar
Virtual Office	https://alaska.zoom.us/my/drmetzgar
Virtual Office Hours	MW 1:00pm - 2:00pm, or by appointment
Phone	(907) 474-6104
Email	jbmetzgar@alaska.edu
Discord	#cs371
Prerequisites	WRTG F211X, WRTG F212X, WRTG F213X or WRTG F214X; COJO F131X or COJO F141X; CS F202
Location	Online course with video lectures https://alaska.zoom.us/my/drmetzgar
Time	2:15pm - 3:15pm MWF

Final	Tentative: 1-3 p.m., Wednesday, December 9
Office Hours	By appointment only via Zoom or Phone

Teaching Mode

You will learn the material in this course from viewing video lectures, attending Zoom sessions, completing homework assignments, and collaborating in a group project. The lecture videos and quizzes should be watched prior to joining the Zoom session to get the most learning experience. The Zoom session consists of special topics and group discussions. The homeworks range from short speeches, white papers, and more. Each homework will have a video that explains what it is about.

Group Project

Part of this course is about the communication between software developers and customers. The group project will consist of designing a website and materials for a software product that helps people *solve a simple problem*. Your team will design the software product, but it needs to be a small scope, approximately 30-40 collective hours of software development time. It needs to be a modern application that a non-technical person would use. Non-technical persons use graphical user interfaces.

Here is a list of ideas that you may consider:

- Prepare a monthly budget
- Utilize a personal Kanban style todo list
- Relax with a simple arcade video game
- Record and categorize personal notes

Throughout the course we will be developing user documentation and information that helps a potential customer decide whether this product will meet their needs.

Course Materials

This section will be updated as reading assignments are added.

- Cyberethics: Morality and Law in Cyberspace Sixth Edition by Richard A. Spinello. ISBN: 9781284081398
- ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (<https://ethics.acm.org>)
- Butterick's Practical Typography Second Edition (<https://practicaltypography.com>)
- Other reading assignments as determined by the instructor

Course Calendar

Note: This list is tentative and subject to change at any time. TBA means “To Be Announced.”

Week	Content	Assignments Due	Date
01	Introduction + LaTeX Read Chapter 1	W01 Quiz + LaTeX Paper	Aug 24, 2020
02	Read Chapter 2 Read Value Sensitive Design	W02 Quiz + Biographical Sketch	Aug 31, 2020
03	Read Chapter 3	W03 Quiz + VSD Paper	Sep 7, 2020
04	Read Chapter 4	W04 Quiz + Elevator Speech	Sep 14, 2020
05	TBA	W05 Quiz + Résumé	Sep 21, 2020
06	TBA	W06 Quiz + TBA	Sep 28, 2020
07	TBA	W07 Quiz + TBA	Oct 5, 2020
08	TBA	Exam 01	Oct 12, 2020
09	TBA	W09 Quiz + TBA	Oct 19, 2020
10	TBA	W10 Quiz + TBA	Oct 26, 2020
11	TBA	W11 Quiz + TBA	Nov 2, 2020
12	TBA	W12 Quiz + TBA	Nov 8, 2020
13	TBA	W13 Quiz + TBA	Nov 15, 2020
14	TBA	W14 Quiz + TBA	Nov 22, 2020
15	TBA	W15 Quiz + Research Paper	Nov 30, 2020
16	Finals	Exam 02	Dec 7, 2020

Course Policies

Grading

Your final grade is determined by percentage of correctly done homework. Correctly done means you scored a 70% or better on the assigned homework. All assignments will have the grading criteria specified in their instructions. The grade for all assignments are distributed according to the grading distribution listed below. The final percentage (rounded to the nearest integer) is then mapped to your letter grade.

Example: 100 = A+, 89 = B+, 75 = C, 60 = D-

Use the grading page on Black Board to track your progress.

General Grading of Assignments

Homework is due on the date specified in Blackboard. Late homework is reduced 10% each day past the due date. Since one of the focuses in this course is technical communication, the quality of your writing is of utmost importance. The classic *wall of text* will receive a zero, so please create an outline and use paragraphs and sentences to organize the flow of your papers. I recommend that you utilize grammar checking software to help improve your writing. Document formatting, spelling, and grammar errors will receive a 2% deduction. Technical content errors will receive a 6% deduction. Technical content could include poorly formed paragraphs, incorrect information, missing citations, etc. Finally, cheating and plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable and papers will receive a zero and possibly an F for the course!

Grading Schema

A+	97-100	A	93-96	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62
F	0-59				

Grading Distribution

Item	Amount	Primary Assessment
Lectures	30%	Weekly Quizzes
Homework	25%	Overleaf/LaTeX PDFs
Group Project	15%	GitHub project and commit activity
Exam 1	10%	Blackboard Test
Exam 2	10%	Blackboard Test

Discord Participation	10%	#ScreenshotSaturday and #EthicsLearned
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Contacting the Instructor

I believe communication is our most valuable tool to encourage learning in this class. So I encourage you to use the Discord channel to ask general questions about class content and assignments because other students will likely have similar questions and we want to promote communication between our fellow students. However, if you have a question that is of a personal nature, then please use email. I generally do not have notifications of direct messages on Discord and I seldom check them.

University and Department Policies

- UAF academic policies <http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics>
- CS Department policies <http://www.cs.uaf.edu/departmental-policies>
- UAF embraces and grows a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion, and caring. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX). Faculty members are designated as responsible employees which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do not share the same reporting obligations. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: <https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/>.
- Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website: <https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf/uaf-students?authuser=0> Further, students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.