**CSC480 Social and Professional Issues in Computing**

Instructor

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Office Hours: MWF 8:00 - 9:00

**Current Catalog Description**

The purpose of this course is to cover the social impact, implications and effects of computers on society, and the responsibilities of computer professionals in directing the emerging technology. Topics include history of computing; legal and ethical responsibilities of professionals; risks to the public; Internet censorship; industrial intelligence gathering; intellectual property issues and software copyrights; environmental concerns; medical and biotechnology ethics; hacking; professional liability; "malware" and viruses; hacking; whistle blowing; privacy; data security; and universal accessibility. Course includes literate business writing, oral presentations, debates, job hunting and interviewing, professional etiquette, critical thinking, and peer reviewing.

Course Prerequisite/Co-requiste

None.

**Textbook and References**

Sara Baase. *A Gift of Fire – Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology, Fourth Edition*. International Edition. ISBN-13:978-0273-76859-3. Prentice Hall - 2013.

**Course Type**

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| **R**equired |  | **E**lective |  | **S**elective **E**lective |  |

**Course Learning Outcomes**

CLO1. Ability to review and analyze the effects of computer technology in society, and anticipate the impact of that

technology on people, companies, and the community.

CLO2. Demonstrate an understanding of anonymity, spam, and how to protect privacy using laws and regulations.

CLO3. Ability to characterize the issues and controversies surrounding free speech, intellectual property, copyright laws

and fair use.

CLO4. Demonstrate an ability to use the underlying concepts of technology, ethical behavior, and professional codes of

ethics in personal and professional decision-making.

Course Grading and Performance Criteria

Project: 25%

Exam I: 25%

Exam II: 25%

Exam III: 25%

**Topics Covered in the Course**

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| Week 1: Introduction, Course outline/Syllabus |
| Week 1: Chapter 1 – Unwrapping the Gift |
| Week 1: Chapter 2 – Privacy |
| Week 2: Chapter 3 – Freedom of Speech |
| Week 2: Exam I |
| Week 2: Chapter 4 – Intellectual Property |
| Week 3: Chapter 5 – Crime |
| Week 3: Chapter 6 – Work |
| Week 3: Exam II |
| Week 4: Chapter 7 – Evaluating and Controlling Technology |
| Week 4: Chapter 8 – Errors, Failures, and Risk |
| Week 4: Chapter 9 – Professional Ethics and Responsibilities |
| Week 5: Exam III |
| Week 5: Group Presentations |
| Week 5: Classroom Debate |

#### **Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism**

Students caught cheating on an exam receive a grade of zero on the exam in their first cheating attempt and receive a warning. Students caught cheating for the second time will receive a grade of “F” in the course and another warning. Plagiarism on assignments and project work is a serious offense. If plagiarism is detected, a student will be subject to penalty, similar to the cheating case, which ranges from receiving a zero on the assignment concerned to an “F” in the course in addition to a warning.

#### **Attendance Policy**

1. Students are held responsible for all the material presented in the classroom, even during their absence.
2. Students can miss no more than the equivalent of five weeks of instruction and still receive credit for that course.
3. Instructors have the right to impose specific attendance regulations in their courses, provided that the above-stated limit of absences is not exceeded, and the minimum number of absences allowed is no fewer than the equivalent of two weeks of classroom instruction, after the Drop and Add period.
4. Instructors will inform the Departments Chairperson and the Guidance Office, of any prolonged unexplained absence.
5. Students who exceed the allowed number of absences must withdraw from the course; otherwise, the course grade will be recorded as “F” (NP).

**Withdrawal policy**

“Students wishing to withdraw from one or more courses must follow the withdrawal procedure provided by the Registrar’s Office. Students withdrawing from courses after the late registration period and before the withdrawal deadline will receive Ws for all the courses in progress.”

***Deadline for withdrawal from courses***: June 17, 2015 (It is the student’s responsibility to drop the course)

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| **Course Evaluation:** | **Completion of the online course evaluations is required. Students will not be able to access their course grades until they have completed the course evaluations**. |