Course Syllabi

1. *Course number and name*
   COSC 3315 - Social and Professional Issues in Computing

2. *Credits and contact hours*
   3 Credit Hours

3. *Instructor's or course coordinator's name*
   Instructor: Leonard Brown

4. *Textbook, title, author, and year*
   Ethics for the Information Age, Michael J Quinn, Pearson, 2025, ISBN 9780138238537.

5. *Specific course information*
   a. *A brief description of the content of the course (catalog description)*
      Introduction to the social and professional issues that arise in the context of computing.

   b. *Prerequisites or co-requisites*
      COSC 1337 – The Object-Oriented Paradigm

   c. *Indicate whether a required, elective, or selected elective course in the program*
      Required course for Computer Science

6. *Specific goals of the course*
   (1) Identify how computing and information systems give rise to social issues and ethical dilemmas
   (2) Analyze issues to be faced as an IT Professional in a complex social, digital society.
   (3) Detail the benefits offered by computing technology in many different areas and the risks and problems associated with these technologies.
   (4) Interpret and analyze social, ethical, legal, philosophical, political, constitutional, and economic issues related to information technology and the historical background of these issues.
   (5) Articulate, explore, and debate arguments on all sides of a controversial issue. Be able to provide professional, written position papers supporting your decision.

(6) Analyze and articulate current social and legal developments related to computers, including privacy, copyrights, ethics, security, and professional responsibilities.

7. *Brief list of topics to be covered*

- History of Computing, Social Context of Computing & Ethics
- Information Privacy
- Privacy in Government Systems, Technology, Rights & Laws
- The ACM Code of Ethics & Professional Practice
- Networked Communications
- Intellectual Property
- Crime – Hacking, Identity Theft, Fraud, Laws and the Web
- Work – Economic issues in Computing & Employment
- Errors, Failures and Risks in Computer Systems
- Professional Ethics and Responsibilities

COSC 3315 Social and Professional Issues – Fall 2026

General Information

Instructor	Leonard Brown
Office Location	Soules 315.01
Office Hours	Tu/Th 10:00am – 12:00pm, 2:00pm – 3:00pm
	W 10:00am – 2:00pm (or by appointment)
Phone	(903) 566-7403
Email	lbrown@uttyler.edu
Class Time/Location	Online

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and one final exam given for this class. All exams will be delivered online via Canvas. You will have a brief window to start and complete each exam. The ***approximate*** dates of the exams are:

Exam I	October 15, 2026
Exam II	November 19, 2026
Final Exam	**(See University Schedule)**

You will be notified in advance of any change in the above dates.

Grading: There are several components to the course grade totaling 1000 points. The point distribution is as follows:

Exam I	150 points
Exam II	150 points
Homework Assignments/Quizzes	400 points
Final Examination	300 points

Course grades will be assigned based on the following scale.

900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
599 and below	F

Late Policies: All homework assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the date specified in the assignment. Assignments submitted after the due date (even if it is by one minute) are considered late. There is a 10% penalty for late assignments. Assignments will not be accepted after 48 hours.

Plagiarism: Unless otherwise specified, all work submitted for a grade must be completed by yourself. You are not to submit another person's work and claim it as your own. Plagiarism will result in disciplinary actions. To spare yourself accusations of plagiarism-

1. Do not show another student a copy of your work before it has been graded. The penalties for permitting your work to be copied are the same as the penalties for copying someone else's work.
2. Do not leave printouts of your work where other students may pick them up.

Additional Policies: Syllabus Information

Academic Calendar **Academic Calendar 2026-2027**

Final Exam Schedule **Final Exam Schedule**