THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
COSC 3315-060 Social and Professional Issues in Computing
Fall 2022

Instructor Information:

J. Howard Baker MAcc (USC), Ph.D. Information Systems (U.T. Arlington)
Senior Lecturer, Computer Science
Computer Science Office: Suite COB 315.06

Office Hours:

By appointment only on Monday or Wednesday. Contact me via email to set a date and time.

Communication:

Please use Canvas email.

Class Instruction:

COSC 3315 is an **online hybrid** (**synchronous and asynchronous**) **course** using the Canvas LMS. All lectures and tests are online. **All class lectures are recorded**. You may watch them as many times as you wish. **Quizzes and exams are synchronous** and are taken during regular class hours. Quizzes and exams have a specific window of time to complete. Quizzes and exams are used to record attendance

Text:

The Future of Feeling: Building Empathy in a Tech-Obsessed World, by Kaitlin Ugolik Phillips, Publisher**:** Little A (February 1, 2020), ISBN-13: 9781542041843 (hardcover), ISBN-10: 1542041848 (hardcover), ISBN-13: 9781542041850 (paperback), ISBN-10: 1542041856 (paperback), Kindle eBook edition (with text-to-speech enabled) is also available on Amazon (free if you have Kindle Unlimited). We will begin using this book in October.

Course Description:

Introduction to the social and professional issues that arise in the context of computing.

> **Mission Statement**: The mission of this course is to address many of the myriad social and ethical concerns which arise from the use of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain technology, 5G, robotics, digital weapons, and facial recognition. We will also examine various views of a "profession" and "professional conduct" in computer science and information systems. Finally, we will explore issues in "empathic technology."

Technology Ethics:

This course introduces key ideas and terms in moral theory and professionalism to explore technology ethics. The course emphasizes that computing is not a purely technical discipline but also has moral and social implications that affect everyday life. Lectures will cover several ethical frameworks such as the *ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct* and examine compliance challenges a computer professional might encounter.

Prerequisite:

COSC 1337 or COSC 1437 – Object-Oriented Paradigm. The student is expected to have taken a foundational course in college-level composition and have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

A Statement on Course Etiquette:

When sending an email, your comments should always be **professional**, and you should always be **courteous**. Any personal issues or general comments about the class should be emailed privately using Canvas email.

Late Assignments:

All assignments must be completed by the semester's last regular day of class. No late work will be accepted without a valid excuse. The professor reserves the right to determine if a reason is valid. Typically, valid excuses will involve an official university function, sickness, a documented family emergency, a documented religious observance, or a funeral. If possible, email the professor **ahead of time** if you will be late. I will work with you to handle special needs or circumstances. Always feel free to contact me if you have a particular need.

Grading:

All questions regarding grades must be settled by the last regular day of class in the semester. Plagiarism and copying other students' work, intentionally or unintentionally, can result in a failing grade.

All semester grades are final. Do not beg for more points or extra credit. There is no extra credit. Feel free to ask me for help if you struggle with fulfilling an assignment.

If your final grade is within .5% of the next letter grade, I will increase the semester percent grade by .5% to raise the final letter grade if you have completed all assignments! (Example: 89.5% will become 90%.)

Grades will be determined as follows:

Lecture Quizzes (may use PPT files and notes) - 10 @ 30 pts each)	300
Exam # 1 Covering Lectures 1-5	200
Exam # 2 Textbook Reading Exam	200
Final Exam Covering Lectures 1-10	300

Semester Percent	Grade
90-100	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
<60	F

Exams and Quizzes:

Exam # 1 demonstrates the student's knowledge of the technology lecture material in the first five lectures of the semester. Exam # 2 is a detailed exam testing the student's comprehension of the material in the textbook. The Final Exam reflects the student's understanding of the technology lecture material in all ten technology lectures. Quizzes and exams may contain multiple-choice, true/false, short essay, or matching questions. Makeup versions of quizzes may be different from the original quiz taken by the class.

Assignments:

All assignments are to be completed and submitted via Canvas. All work must be recorded in Canvas. Do not send assignments that are late via email attachment to me. Upon request, I will give you instructions on how to submit a late assignment via Canvas.

Make-up Work:

Makeup work or quizzes will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Makeups will be given only for unusual circumstances such as emergencies or documented illnesses. If possible, requests for a make-up assignment should be made before the due date and time of the assignment. Late or missing assignments without a valid excuse will receive a zero.

Assignment Policy:
All assignments are due by the specified date and time in Canvas. All assignments must be individually and independently completed and represent the student's own effort.

Lecture Q & A:

Questions regarding the class in general, grades, or assignments should be emailed to the professor. Students should also feel free to ask technical questions regarding the material being covered in lectures by emailing the professor. Questions do not have to address specific material presented in a lecture. For instance, if the lecture is about artificial intelligence (AI), a question might address anything relevant to the subject, such as asking where to find an excellent introductory article on AI.

Course Registration:

Students must register for this class as soon as possible to be assured of enrollment. Joining the class late will require the makeup of all work within **one week** of joining the course.

Withdrawals:

Students must officially withdraw from this class; otherwise, they will receive an "F" for the course.

University Policies and Information

- **Withdrawing from Class** - Students you are allowed to <u>withdraw</u> (drop) from this course through the University's <u>Withdrawal Portal</u>. Texas law prohibits students who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Make sure to consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress as well as the financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the <u>Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule</u>. CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the <u>Office of International Programs</u> before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.
- **Final Exam Policy**: Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members are required to maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.
- **Incomplete Grade Policy**: If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final Exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average for a student.
The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to complete all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate Grade. If a grade has not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or to NC if the course was originally taken under the CR/NC grading basis.
- **Grade Appeal Policy:** - UT Tyler's Grade Appeal policy requires the completion of a Grade Appeal form for this action to take place. The grade appeal begins with the instructor of your course. If you do not agree with the decision of the instructor, you may then move your appeal to the department chair/school director for that course. If you are still dissatisfied with the decision of the chair/director, you may move the appeal to the Dean of the College offering that course who has the final decision. Grade appeals must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade. The Grade Appeal form is found on the <u>Registrar's Form Library.</u>
- **Disability/Accessibility Services**: The University of Texas at Tyler has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who may need accommodation(s) in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources Office (SAR) as soon as possible to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure

access. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit the SAR Portal (https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/) and complete the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the SAR wepage or call 903.566.7079.

- o **Military Affiliated Students**: UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with me if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make me aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. I am willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resources for military affiliated students are in the Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC). The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu, or via phone at 903.565.5972.
- o **Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct:** The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the Student Conduct and Discipline policy in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).
- o **FERPA** - UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in University Policy 5.2.3 . The course instructor will follow all requirements in protecting your confidential information.

- o **COVID Guidance:**
    - *Information for Classrooms and Laboratories:* It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID, and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing, and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure (CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines (Links to an external site.)). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework, and please consult existing campus resources (Links to an external site.) for support.
    - o Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, digestive issues (e.g. nausea, diarrhea), or a higher than normal temperature should stay at home and are encouraged to use the UT Tyler COVID-19 Information and Procedures (Links to an external site.)website to review protocols, check symptoms, and report possible exposure. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

- o **Recording of Class Sessions**: Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.
- o **Absence for Official University Events or Activities**: This course follows the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures (Sec. 1 -501).
- o **Absence for Religious Holidays:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious holiday are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of the semester.
- o **Campus Carry:** We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php.

Student Resources

Resources to assist you in this course

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource (SAR) Office (Links to an external site.)](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- [UT Tyler Writing Center (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Upswing (24/7 online tutoring) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Robert Muntz Library (Links to an external site.)](#) and [Library Liaison (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Canvas 101 (Links to an external site.)](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab (Links to an external site.)](#)

Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center (Links to an external site.)](#)(available to all students)
- [TAO Online Support Center (Links to an external site.)](#)(online self-help modules related to mental & emotional health)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center (Links to an external site.)](#)(supports for all of our military affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Office of International Programs (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Title IX Reporting (Links to an external site.)](#)
- [Patriots Engage (Links to an external site.)](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

Evaluation Method	
1. Lecture Quizzes	**2. Exams**
3.	**4.**
5.	**6.**
7.	**8.**
Course Objectives: By the end of this course students should be able to:	

	Course Objectives: By the end of this course students should be able to:
1.	Describe the basic components of ethical reasoning [1,2]
2.	Consider what ethical decisions you would make throughout the various scenarios [1,2]
3.	Describe the basic principles of significant moral theories [1,2]
4.	Explain how theorists define the constituents of a profession [1,2]
5.	Explain what defines a professional [1,2]
6.	Explain how advances in technology call for new privacy protection laws [1, 2]
7.	Explain how the Internet has affected intellectual property laws [1,2]
8.	Describe best practices on how to help prevent computer failures [1,2]
9.	Explain how social networking sites and online games have the potential to change an individual's self-concept from a single 'true' self to multiple explicit personas [1,3]
10.	Explain how current free speech laws are interpreted when applied to recent methods of expression [1,2]
11.	Describe how the arguments of theorists are applied to protect vulnerable members of society [1,2]
12.	Explain what it means for a technology to be pervasive and for it to be autonomous [1,2]
13	Discuss how empathy is built in a tech-obsessed world [3]

Weekly class assignment schedule:

Week #	Days	Class Activities
Week 1	August 22-28	Watch the Class Overview Lecture. Complete the Week 01 Student Introduction Survey at the bottom of the Quizzes links. (Email me if you can't find it.)
		Watch Lecture # 01 ─ Introduction to Ethical Thinking and the Ethical Brain.
Week 2	August 29-September 4	Watch Lecture # 02 ─ Virtue Ethics, Situationism, EQ, and Empathy.
Week 3	September 5-11	**Labor Day September 5 - all offices closed; no classes held**
		Watch Lecture # 03 ─ Introduction to the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct plus the lecture on ACM and SIGCAS.
Week 4	September 12-18	Watch Lecture # 04 ─ Intellectual and Intangible Property Lecture Parts 1 & 2.
Week 5	September 19-25	Watch Lecture # 05 - Establishing a Culture of Trust.
Week 6	September 26-October 2	**Take Exam # 1 Covering Lectures 1-5.**
		Watch Lecture # 06 ─ STUXNET and Digital Weapons
Week 7	October 3-9	There are no Lectures this week. Read Textbook (*The Future of Feeling: Building Empathy in a Tech-Obsessed World*) Chapters 1 – 3.
Week 8	October 10-16	There are no Lectures this week. Read Textbook (*The Future of Feeling: Building Empathy in a Tech-Obsessed World*) Chapters 4 – 5.
Week 9	October 17-23	There are no Lectures this week. Read Textbook (*The Future of Feeling: Building Empathy in a Tech-Obsessed World*) Chapters 6 – 8 plus the Epilogue.
		Career Success Conference October 20 – please attend
Week 10	October 24-30	**Exam # 2 covers the textbook.**
Week 11	October 31-November 6	**November 1 – last day to withdraw,**
		Watch Lecture # 07 ─ E-Government, E-Democracy, E-Voting, and the Digital Divide,
Week 12	November 7-13	Watch Lecture # 08 ─ Robots and Autonomous Systems,
Week 13	November 14-20	Watch Lecture # 09 ─ Society and Artificial Intelligence, Watch Lecture # 10 ─ Cryptocurrency, BlockChain, and Hash Graph,
Week 14	November 21-27	**Thanksgiving holidays for faculty and students**
Week 15	November 28-December 4	There are no Lectures this week. Complete the two quizzes.
Week 16	December 5-10	**Study Day is December 5**
		Final Exam Covering Lectures 1-10

Topics may be added or subtracted accordingly as the semester goes according to to need. This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor.

Quiz and Exam Schedule

Quizzes and Exams are to be taken during assigned (synchronous class hours:
Monday & Wednesday, 4:05 PM to 5:30 PM.

Week #	Days	Quiz or Exam Date	Quiz or Exam
Week 1	August 22-28		No Quiz or Exam: **Complete the Student Introduction Survey.**
Week 2	August 29-September 4	29	Take Lecture Quiz # 01.
Week 3	September 5-11	5 7	Labor Day September 5 - all offices closed; no classes held Take Lecture Quiz # 02.
Week 4	September 12-18	12	Take Lecture Quiz # 03.
Week 5	September 19-25	19	Take Lecture Quiz # 04.
Week 6	September 26-October 2	26 28	Take Lecture Quiz # 05. **Exam # 1 Covering Lectures 1-5**
Week 7	October 3-9	3	Take Lecture Quiz # 06.
Week 8	October 10-16		No Quiz or Exam No Quiz or Exam
Week 9	October 17-23		No Quiz or Exam No Quiz or Exam
Week 10	October 24-30	24	**Exam # 2 covers the textbook-assigned readings - from October 3 to 23.**
Week 11	October 31-November 6	31	Take Lecture Quiz # 06.
Week 12	November 7-13	7	Take Lecture Quiz # 07.
Week 13	November 14-20	14	Take Lecture Quiz # 08.
Week 14	November 21-27		**Thanksgiving Break – No Quiz or Exam.**
Week 15	November 28-December 4	28 30	Take Lecture Quiz # 09. Take Lecture Quiz # 10.
Week 16	December 5-10	5 TBA	Study Day **Final Exam**