

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

On-campus by appointment only on Monday or Wednesday. Contact me via email to set a date and time.

Communication:

Canvas email or professor's UTT email: hbaker@uttyler.edu

Class Instruction:

This is an online asynchronous course using the Canvas LMS. All lectures, discussions, instruction, and testing are online. All class lectures are recorded, and discussions are asynchronous with no requirement for students to log in on a specific day or time. However, testing may be required at a specific day and time.

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).

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, quantum computing, blockchain technology, 5G, robotics, digital weapons, and facial recognition. Both security and privacy issues will be addressed. We will also examine various views of what is a "profession" and what is considered "professional conduct" in computer science and information systems.

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 one with 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 will 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 or posting online, your posts and comments should always be **professional**, and you should always be **courteous** toward other students and the professor. Personal issues and general comments about the class should be emailed privately to the professor. To email the professor directly, use Canvas email or the professor's UT Tyler email address in this syllabus.

Late Assignments:

All work and assignments must be completed by the last regular day of class in the semester. No late work will be accepted without a valid excuse. The professor reserves the right to determine if an excuse 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 are having a special need.

Grading:

All questions regarding grades must be settled by the last regular day of class in the semester. Plagiarism and the copying of other student's 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 are struggling 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! (Example: 89.5% will become 90%.)

Grades will be determined as follows:

Lecture Quizzes – may use PPT files and notes while taking a quiz (10 @ 30 pts each)	300
Midterm Exam Covering Lectures 1-5	200
Textbook Quizzes (10 @ 20 pts each)	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:

The Midterm Exam is to demonstrate the student's knowledge of the lecture material in the first half of the semester. The Final Exam is to demonstrate the student's knowledge of the lecture material of the entire semester. Quizzes over the textbook may be T/F or essay type. Essay answers will require proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. All quizzes are taken via Canvas. Lecture quizzes and exams may contain multiple-choice, true/false, short essay, and/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. Do not send assignments that are late via email attachment to me. All work must be recorded in Canvas. Upon request, I will give you instructions on how to submit a late or replacement 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 illness. If possible, requests for a make-up assignment should be made PRIOR to the due date and time of the assignment. Late assignments without a valid excuse will receive a zero.

Assignment Policy:

All assignments are due on the specified date and time shown in Canvas. All assignments must be individually and independently completed and must represent the effort of the student turning in the assignment. Assignments that are basically identical will be considered plagiarized, or a derivative of another's work, **and will result in an "F" grade for the course.**

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 a good 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 class.

Withdrawals:

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

University policies (See Canvas Module for University Policies and Information)

UT Tyler Resources for Students (See Canvas Module for Student Resources)

Evaluation Method	
1. Lecture Quizzes	2. Exams
3. Textbook Essay Quizzes	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
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]

Tentative class schedule:

Week #	Days	Class Activities
Week 1	May 9-15	Review the syllabus, Obtain the textbook, and Complete <i>Week 1 Student Introduction</i> (find under Quizzes) by May 15
Week 2	May 16-22	Watch Lecture # 01 – Introduction to Ethical Thinking and the Ethical Brain, Take Lecture Quiz # 01, Read Textbook (<i>The Future of Feeling: Building Empathy in a Tech-Obsessed World</i>) Author's Note, Introduction, and Chapter 1, Take Text Quiz on Chapter 1
Week 3	May 23-29	Watch Lecture # 02 – Virtue Ethics, Situationism, EQ and Empathy, Take Lecture Quiz # 02, Read Textbook Chapter 2, Take Text Quiz on Chapter 2
Week 4	May 30-June 5	Watch Lecture # 03 – Introduction to the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, Take Lecture Quiz # 03, Read Textbook Chapter 3, Take Text Quiz on Chapter 3
Week 5	June 6-12	Watch Lecture # 04 – Intellectual and Intangible Property Lecture Parts 1 & 2, Take Lecture Quiz # 04, Read Textbook Chapter 4, Take Text Quiz on Chapter 4
Week 6	June 13-19	Watch Lecture # 05 - Establishing a Culture of Trust, Take Lecture Quiz # 05, Read Textbook Chapter 5, Take Text Quiz on Chapter 5
Week 7	June 20-26	Study for Midterm Exam, Take Midterm Exam Thursday, June 23 - Covers Lectures 1-5
Week 8	June 27-July 3	Watch Lecture # 06 – STUXNET and Digital Weapons, Take Lecture Quiz # 06, Read Textbook Chapter 6, Take Text Quiz on Chapter 6
Week 9	July 4-10	July 4th Independence Day Holiday July 7 Last day to withdraw, Watch Lecture # 07 – E-Government, E-Democracy, E-Voting, and the Digital Divide, Take Lecture Quiz # 07, Read Textbook Chapter 7, Take Text Quiz on Chapter 7
Week 10	July 11-17	Watch Lecture # 08 – Robots and Autonomous Systems, Take Lecture Quiz # 08, Read Textbook Chapter 8, Take Text Quiz on Chapter 8
Week 11	July 18-24	Watch Lecture # 09 – Society and Artificial Intelligence, Take Lecture Quiz # 09, Read Textbook Epilogue, Take Text Quiz on Textbook Epilogue
Week 12	July 25-31	Watch Lecture # 10 – Cryptocurrency, BlockChain, and Hash Graph, Take Lecture Quiz # 10, Take Essay Quiz on Textbook Overview - a Question on Empathy in a Tech-Obsessed World
Week 13	August 1-6	Study for Final Exam, Take the Final Exam August 5, Covers Lectures 1-10 August 6 - End of Long Summer Session

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