

CS 4883: Social Issues in Computing
Term: Spring 2021

Contact Information

Name: Rekha Bhowmik
Office Phone: (918) 594 8441
Office Location: 700 N. Greenwood Ave., North Hall 324, Tulsa, OK 74106
Email: rekha.bhowmik@okstate.edu

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites: Senior standing and ENGL 3323 or BCOM 3113 or BCOM 3223 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Description:

The history and evolution of computing systems, providing the background for the analysis of the social impact of computers. The social implications of computer use and or misuse with emphasis on the effects on the individual, society, and other human institutions. Social responsibilities of people involved in using or applying computers.

Required Text:

Sara Baase. *A Gift of Fire – Social, Legal and Ethical Issues for Computing and the Internet*, 5th edition. Prentice Hall, ISBN: 978 0134615271

Student Outcomes

1. Communicate effectively in a variety of professional contexts. This requires an evaluation of written skills and student presentations.
Example: A presentation [slides] on conflicting legal issues surrounding data ownership in Europe and the United States.
2. Recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgement in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles. Include an assignment or set of assignments which specifically address this criterion.

Example: A term paper on conflicts over intellectual property, inappropriate business practices, or ethical considerations in artificial intelligence.

Academic Calendar

Week #	Discussion Board	Reading	Assignment Due
1 Jan 19 – Jan 24	Ethical theories	Chapter 1: Unwrapping the Gift	
2 Jan 25 - Jan 31	Privacy	Chapter 2: Privacy 2.1 Privacy Risks and Principles 2.2: The Business and Social Sectors 2.3: The Fourth Amendment and Changing Technology	Discussion Forum 1
3 Feb 1 – Feb 7	More Privacy	2.4 Government Systems 2.5 Protecting Privacy: Technology and Markets 2.6 Protecting Privacy: Theory, Rights, and Laws	Discussion Forum 2
4 Feb 8 - Feb 14	Freedom of Speech	3.1 The First Amendment and Communications Paradigms 3.2 Controlling Speech in Cyberspace 3.3 Decisions about Legal but Objectionable Content	Discussion Forum 3
5 Feb 15 - Feb 21	Intellectual Property	4.1 Principles and Laws 4.2 Significant Fair Use Cases and Precedents 4.3 Responses to Copyright Infringement	Discussion Forum 4 Part1: Presentation [Submit Slides on “Data Ownership”]
6 Feb 22 - Feb 28	Intellectual Property	4.4 Search Engines and Online Libraries 4.5 Free Software 4.6 Patents for Software Inventions	Term paper proposal Quiz 1 [Chapters 2, 4]

7 Mar 1 – Mar 7			Discussion Forum 5
8 Mar 8– Mar 14	Crime and Security	Chapter 5: Crime and Security	Discussion Forum 6
9 Mar 15 –Mar 21	Crime and Security	Chapter 5: Crime and Security	Part 2: Presentation [Online Video Presentation on Data Ownership]
10 Mar 22 –Mar 28			Discussion Forum 7
11 Mar 29 – Apr 4	Work	Chapter 6: Work	Term paper
12 Apr 5 – Apr 11	Evaluating technology	Chapter 7: Evaluating and Controlling Technology	Discussion Forum 8 Quiz 2 [Chapters 6, 7, 8]
13 Apr 12 –Apr 18	Computer Errors and Risk	Chapter 8: Errors, Failures, and Risks	Discussion Forum 9
14 Apr 19 – Apr 25	Professional Ethics	Chapter 9	Discussion Forum 10
15 Apr 26- May 2			Quiz 3 [Chapters 5, 9]
16 May 3 – May 7			Final Exam

Grading Criteria

Grading (credit) Criteria	<p>The grade will be determined as described below.</p> <p>Quizzes [3]: 30% Term Paper: 15% Video Presentation [Data Ownership]: 15% Final Exam: 10% Discussion Forum: 30 %</p> <p>Grades are assigned according to the following scale: [>=90%] A [80-89%] B [70-79%] C [60-69%] D [0-59%] F</p>
Late Work	<p>The reading / discussion part of the class cannot be made up. The critiques also must be turned in on time, and cannot be turned in late. 15 percent of the total points will be deducted for each day, or part thereof, that the assignment is late.</p>

<p>Readings and Discussion</p>	<p>Discussion is a big part of this class. Thus reading and participation in the online (Canvas) discussion will be required. For each reading, you must write a short one page summary, which must be turned in. There will be about one online discussion per week. Each discussion will have two phases.</p> <p>Before starting each discussion, you should read the assigned readings, and then summarize them. Turn in your summary to Canvas.</p> <p>The second phase of the discussions will consist of reading each-other's comments and responding to them. You should read many of the comments that other class members make, and respond to some of them for each discussion. The discussions cannot be made up, so make sure to do them when they are open.</p>
<p>Term Paper</p>	<p>This will be a term paper which will be a discussion of a social issue related to intellectual property, inappropriate business practices, or ethical considerations in artificial intelligence. In your paper you should provide a depth of discussion about the topic, thoroughly explain the different points of view. It is not sufficient to summarize facts. You must identify social, ethical, or technological issues related to your topic.</p> <p>To help with your term papers, a proposal will be required a few weeks before the actual paper is due along with an annotated bibliography.</p>
<p>Presentation</p>	<p>You will have to present on conflicting legal issues surrounding data ownership in Europe and the United States.</p> <p>Like the term paper, the presentation will go through a draft cycle.</p>
<p>Cheating</p>	<p>Copying a paper from another source and passing it off as your own is plagiarism, and it is not acceptable. Turning in a plagiarized draft for the term paper will result in an automatic F for the course. Also, keep in mind that everything you quote from an outside source in any of your papers must be specifically cited, with an entry in a bibliography.</p>

OSU Academic Integrity Policy:

OSU is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and altering academic records) will result in an official academic sanction. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript, and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Go to <http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu/> for a video on OSU's academic integrity policy and additional information.