



CSC 300
Professional and Social Contexts I
Spring 2005

Syllabus and General Information

Class Meetings

Lecture: Thursday, 1:00 – 1:50PM, Room SCI 361

Instructor

Prof. Nadeem Abdul Hamid

Office: SCI 354B

Office Hours: Mon 11-12:30, 2-3:30 • Tues 9-12:30 • Wed 11-12:30, 2-3:00 • Thurs 2-3:00 • (or by appt)

Phone: (706) 368-5632 (office)

Email: nadeem@acm.org

Course Catalog Description

CSC 300 Professional and Social Contexts I

1-0-1

A seminar in the professional and social contexts of computing for computer science majors.

Prerequisites: CSC 121 and junior standing.

Course Objectives

Upon completion, students should be familiar with a variety of legal, ethical, and social issues as they apply to information technology. Students will be expected to acquire or sharpen critical and analytical reasoning skills in order to assess the impact of current and future computer-related technologies. The student should also become familiar with the roles and responsibilities of today's computer professional.

Expected Outcomes

The student will meet the objectives with at least 70% success, based on performance on classroom participation, assignments, and exams.

Methods of Instruction

One lecture per week. This course will require students to participate in classroom presentations based on reading material. There will also be a term project involving a research paper and oral presentation thereof.

Materials & Resources

Required Textbook:

- George Reynolds, *Ethics in Information Technology*, Thompson/Course Technology, 2003. ISBN# 0-619-06277-0.

Online course website:

- <https://vikingweb.berry.edu> - It is your responsibility to check the Viking Web site for this course regularly (*i.e.* daily) throughout the semester, as it will be regularly updated with announcements, lecture notes, assignments, *etc.*

Assignments and Grading

Student grades will be determined on a standard 10% grade scale: 90% - 100% earns an A, 80% - 89% earns a B, *etc.*, with the instructor reserving the right to apply +/- grades at his discretion. Grades will be based on the weighted average of the following course work:

Participation (40%) - Attendance and participation in class discussions will be critical. Evaluation will also be based on completion of occasional homework/reading assignments and class presentations.

Term Paper (30%) - There will be a term paper assignment involving writing a 4000 word (approx. 10 pages) research paper. More details on the topics, guidelines, and deadlines will be given in the first 2 weeks of the course.

Exams (30%) - There will be 2 exams, **tentatively** scheduled as follows. Each exam will be worth 15% of the course grade.

- Midterm Exam, Week of February 21, 2005
- Final Exam, TBA

Syllabus (see the course webpage for up-to-date topics, reading material, assignments, and lecture notes)

(approx. 1 week each)

Overview of Ethics

Computer and Internet Crime

Freedom of Expression

Open Source

Cryptography

Ethics in Computing

Privacy

Intellectual Property – Software Patents and Copyright Laws

Software Development

Job Issues

Course Policies

- *Attendance Policy*: Please see the Berry College Viking Code for “Class Attendance Policies” (pp 10-11, 2004-2005 edition). Missing three (3) or more classes without justifiable reason (and appropriate documentation) will be considered excessive absences.

Attendance records will be kept by the instructor. Sign-in sheets will be circulated every class period and attendance records will be kept from the sign-in sheet. **If your name is not readable on the list, you will be marked absent.** Signing for someone else will be considered a serious breach of academic integrity.

- *Academic Integrity*: Students are expected to have read carefully and understood the rules governing breaches of academic integrity that are to be found in the Viking Code (pp 16-17) and the Course Catalog (pp 27-28, 2003-2005 edition). Be aware that, unless otherwise specified, all assignments, projects, and examinations in this course are expected to be done on an individual basis.
- *Late Work*: Late work will not be accepted unless an excuse is obtained prior to the day on which the assignment is due. This policy will be waived only in an “emergency situation” with appropriate documentation and/or prior arrangement with the instructor.
- *Disabilities*: Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Academic Support Center in Krannert Room 326 (Ext. 4080) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Failure to contact the Academic Support Center will constitute acknowledgement that no disability exists and that no accommodations are needed.