

CSCI 495: Computer Science Seminar
COURSE SYLLABUS
Department of Computer Science
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Spring 2012

Instructors:

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Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00PM-1:50PM
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Course Description:

This course introduces students to a variety of social, legal and ethical issues in computing, including: privacy, reliability and risk, free speech, computer crime, intellectual property rights. Students will explore their personal and professional ethics. An emphasis will be placed on students further developing non-technical professional skills, particularly writing and oral presentations. In addition, some guest speakers may discuss their jobs and the roles IT plays in their companies.

General Course Guidelines

1. Topics
 - New Developments and their impacts
 - Privacy
 - Freedom of Speech
 - Intellectual Property
 - Cyber Crime
 - Professional Computer Science Work
 - Evaluating and Controlling Technology
 - Failures and Errors in Computer Systems
 - Professional Ethics and Responsibilities
2. Textbook: A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing and the Internet, Sara Baase, Third Edition, ISBN 0-13-600848-8
- 3.

| Grading | Weight |
|---|---------------|
| New York Times Report / Online Postings | 17% |
| Individual Paper | 28% |
| Group Paper | 18% |
| Individual Presentations | 17% |
| Reviews | 10% |
| In Class Assignments | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

4. **New York Times Report:** The Provost’s Office and Parkside Student Government support the New York Times in College initiative that makes the paper available for free on campus and offers excellent opportunities for incorporating current issues into our curriculum. The newspapers will be made available at 8 different newspaper racks all across campus. Students should read the paper daily and select one article per week that addresses the topics discussed in class. Students will post in D2L in the discussion section a summary and comments about the articles read during the previous weeks. There will be five online posting assignments during the semester as indicated in the class schedule listed at item 23 of this syllabus. Additionally, students will read and post comments on the postings of at least two other students. Hence, there will be three postings per assignment: (1) articles’ summaries and comments, (2) comments on other student’s summary, and (3) comments on another student’s summary.
5. Online posting comments should be elaborated responses of at least 150 words. They should avoid trivial responses such as: “I agree”, “yes”, “I like that idea”, “You are wrong”, etc. They should present proposals and/or conclusions, supported by arguments. They should be written in a professional way using academic vocabulary.
6. Presentations should analyze the situation, use analogies and similar cases where possible, mention various possible risks or consequences, etc. If relevant, include some discussion of how the new technology changes the situation. What advantages or problems result from using it, compared to the old way of doing things? Additionally, they should present proposals and/or conclusions, supported by arguments.
7. In Class Assignments are group activities in which students would have about 15 minutes to prepare a 5 to 10 minute presentation on assigned discussion topic (s). They should follow the guidelines for presentations specified before. In Class Assignments may be eliminated or added as needed to accommodate guest speakers and/or extend/conclude previous presentations or discussions.
8. The class format consists of individual student presentations followed by group presentations. All students are encouraged to participate in the discussions.
9. Typical Grade Allocation, but not the final grade allocation.

| Alpha | Lowest | Highest |
|-------|--------|---------|
| A | 93 | 100 |
| A- | 88 | 92 |
| B+ | 84 | 87 |
| B | 80 | 83 |
| B- | 75 | 79 |
| C+ | 72 | 74 |
| C | 67 | 71 |
| C- | 63 | 66 |
| D+ | 61 | 62 |
| D | 58 | 60 |
| D- | 55 | 57 |
| F | 0 | 54 |

Final grade allocation will be determined by the instructor depending on the overall class performance. Grades are not curved, but the grade allocation is adjusted to benefit most students.

10. Individual presentations should be taken seriously since they are an important part of the final grade. Students should work independently and prepare the material well in

advance. The class will evaluate each student's presentation which will be taken as recommended grade for the student; however, the instructor will decide in accepting or adjusting the grade. They should follow the guidelines for presentations specified before and also consider the ones listed in the evaluation of presentation form.

11. See separate attachment for additional specifications for the group paper, individual paper, review of presentations and evaluations.
12. Each student will be responsible for completing the assigned reading, exercises and attending classes.
13. **Attendance:** Excellent attendance is necessary for this class, in order to participate with your group, learn the material, and achieve passing grades. If you cannot attend class, please speak with the instructor in order to determine how best to catch up on missed lectures and exercises. **There will be a sign-in sheet to record attendance.**
14. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for knowing everything that took place. Your absence does not change the due date of an assignment.
15. Papers and other written assignments will be announced in class as needed, and they must be turned in on the due date to receive full credit. Late assignments are penalized at 20% per day (not including weekends).
16. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Copying someone else's paper, changing a few lines, and turning it in as your own is plagiarism; thus, this is cheating. Each student is to write his or her own papers.
17. **Incompletes Policy:** Incompletes are not to be used as a shelter from potentially low grades. To take an incomplete, you must have "maintained a passing grade in the course until near the end of the course".
18. Topics or discussions unrelated to class, suggestions about the logistic of the course are all welcome outside class, but are considered disruptive during class and will affect negatively your "class contribution" grade, and may impact at the discretion of the instructor your final grade.
19. The use of Laptops is not allowed during lecture unless is used for note taking assistance. Therefore, checking e-mail and browsing the WWW during class is strictly forbidden and will severely penalize your class contribution grade.
20. **Cellular Telephones and Pagers in Class and Lab:** Along with your instructors, many students find these both distracting and rude. As a courtesy to all involved, please either turn off your cellular telephone or pager or disable the ring tone during lecture and lab. If you must use the phone, please leave the classroom or lab and go to a place that will not interrupt others.
21. **Students with a Disability:** Anyone who has special needs that must be accommodated to fulfill the course requirements should contact the Disability Services Coordinator in the Office of Educational Support Services (WLLC D175, 595-2372), and keep me informed. The University has many resources available to assist students with their academic studies.
22. **Accommodation for Religious Observances:** UW-Parkside policy requires that reasonable accommodation for a student's religious beliefs. Please notify your instructor within the first two weeks of classes about any scheduled class date that conflicts with a religious observance.
23. **Tentative Class Schedule is listed in course web page list of activities are *subject to change without prior notice***
<http://homepages.uwp.edu/quevedo/courses/csci495/>