

CS4307 Ethical Issues In Computing

Spring 2022 Syllabus

Textbook: *A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology*, 5th Edition, by Sara Baase and Timothy Henry. ISBN-13: 9780134615271. See Blackboard for options. In addition, many other resources, such as textbooks and resources from the Internet, will be used.

Instructor: Lopamudra Roychoudhuri

E-mail: lroychoudhuri@angelo.edu

Office: MCS 205E

Campus Phone: (325) 486-5448

Class Times: Online. Class will meet on Collaborate multiple times with recording.

Classroom: Online.

Course Web Site: Blackboard

Office Hours: MTWRF 3:00-5:00 pm, on Blackboard Collaborate.

Precautionary Measures against COVID-19

Daily Wellness Screening: please fill this first thing every morning.

Please refer to this [Health and Safety web page](#)ⁱ for updated information about campus guidelines as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prerequisite:

Junior academic standing.

Course Objectives:

This is a seminar style course with discussion of the ways in which computing, and communication technology pose ethical questions, moral problems and dilemmas. We will study concepts to guide a computer professional thru professional code of ethics. Case studies will be used to relate to ethical theory. Discussion will include ethical and legal use of software and conflicts of interest.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Identify how computing and information systems give rise to social issues and ethical dilemmas.
2. Recognize some of the privacy issues individuals will face as a member of a complex technological society.
3. Describe the benefits offered by computing technology in many different areas and the risks and problems associated with these.
4. Recognize and discuss some of the social, legal, philosophical, political, constitutional, and economical issues related to computing and information systems.
5. Recognize and discuss arguments on all sides of controversial issues.

6. Deliver a team project that will allow the student to study some aspect of the “real world” ethical issues in computing beyond what is covered in class.

Grading:

Grading Criteria	Dates	Weights	Goals Assessed
Quizzes - weekly	Due Sundays	20%	1 thru 4
Assignments (Short essays, Discussion Board, Debates/Presentations)	Due Saturdays	30%	1 thru 5
Exam 1	2/21/22	10%	1 thru 4
Exam 2	4/18/22	15%	1 thru 4
Team Project	5/2/22 – individual reports due 5/2/22-5/9/22 – team presentations	25%	6

GRADE	PERCENT
A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 - 69
F	0 - 59

Week by week tentative schedule:

Week	Starting on	Topics
1	1/18/22	Module 1: Unwrapping the Gift;
2	1/24/22	Module 2: Freedom of Speech; <i>Project topics of interest list due – 1/24</i>
3	1/31/22	Module 3: Privacy
4	2/7/22	Module 3 cont., <i>Write up on topics of interest due- 2/7</i>
5	2/14/22	Module 4: Intellectual Property; <i>Project topic selection per team – 2/14</i>
6	2/21/22	Exam 1 on 2/21 ; Module 5: Crime and Security
7	2/28/22	Module 5 cont.;
8	3/7/22	Module 6: Errors, Failures and Risks; <i>Project proposal due – 3/7</i>
8	3/14/22 – 3/18/22	Spring Break
9	3/21/22	Module 6 cont.
10	3/28/22	Module 7: Professional Ethics;
11	4/4/22	Module 7 cont.; <i>Interim project report due – 4/4</i>
12	4/11/22	Module 8: Technology - Evaluation and Control
13	4/18/22	Exam 2 on 4/18 ; Module 9: Work
14	4/25/22	Work on Team Project
15	5/2/22	<i>Individual Project reports due – 5/2; Project presentations;</i>
16	5/9/22	<i>Project presentations cont;</i>

CLASS STRUCTURE AND ASSIGNMENTS

- **Readings:** Readings from the textbook and/or other sources will be announced every week. We will work on many kinds of assignments based on this material.

- **Quizzes:** We will work on quizzes that will validate the readings. The grade from the quizzes will constitute 20% of the total grade.
- **Discussion Forum:** Discussion topics will be posted every other week covering topics from the reading. You will write comprehensive, insightful and reflective comments on the question of the week that will be graded. The grade from these assignments will constitute 15% of the total grade.
- **Short Essays:** Short essay topics will be posted every other week covering topics from the reading. You will write comprehensive, insightful and reflective one-page essay on the question of the week. The grade from these assignments will constitute 15% of the total grade.
- *All assignments, unless otherwise specified, must be submitted to Blackboard containing your name, course name, the title of the assignment and the due date.*
- *No late assignment will be accepted. No e-mail or in-person submission is accepted. There are no exceptions to this rule.*
- All assignments should be the work product of each individual. Cheating occurs when a student either submits work for a grade that is not entirely due to his/her own effort or allows others to use her/his work. Cheating occurs when a student submits work product that is copied from another student. Cheating on an assignment or exam will result in a failing grade for the course. No student shall look towards the work of any other student during exams as it shall be construed as cheating.
- **Academic Honor Code:** Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).ⁱⁱ (can be found in page 96 of the [Student Handbook](#).ⁱⁱⁱ). You should familiarize yourself with it. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

TEAM PROJECT

- We will form teams of 2 or 3. The teams will be chosen on the first day of class and will be maintained till the end of semester.
- Each team will select a topic that will allow the group to study some aspect of the “real world” computer ethics topic in detail beyond what is covered in class. The outcome of the project will be an individual interim and a final project report, as well as a team class presentation in last two weeks of class. You will submit your own report that clearly shows your contributions to the project. Each team will prepare a 15-to-20-minute presentation and answer related questions. *You will need to have a microphone on your personal machines to make presentations from remote.*
- The grade from the project will constitute 30% of the total grade.

EXAMS

We will have two exams. Exams will be Blackboard quizzes on readings from the textbook. The quizzes will be open on the exam day and will have to be completed in a single attempt. All students must take all exams on the scheduled days. There are no makeup exams. Only exception will be student absence for observance of religious holy day (see below). Each exam will be weighted at 10% of the total grade.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory (*no excused absences*). Roll will be taken from participation date on Blackboard and assignment submission.

GRADEBOOKS

During the semester, you are expected to monitor your performance on assignments and exams by accessing your grades online. It is your responsibility to: (1) ensure that correct entries have been made into the gradebook, and (2) be aware of your performance in the class. Grade percentages are shown on this syllabus so you can compute your own grade standing as the semester progresses.

E-MAIL

You are required to use your Angelo State email account for communicating with me. Check your email frequently for announcements and policy changes. If you have any question about the course or need assistance, please contact me by e-mail at any time. I shall reply within 24 hours. Include the course name and section number in your subject line in your emails to me.

General Policy Statements

Add/Drop Dates

Students may add this course up to January 21, 2022.

Students may drop this class or withdraw from the university until April 28, 2022.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).^{iv} The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)^v for more information.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)^{vi} for more information.

Title IX at Angelo State University

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance at:

Michelle Miller, J.D.
Special Assistant to the President and Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-486-6357
michelle.miller@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix^{vii}.

Modifications to the syllabus

The instructor and the university reserve the right to modify or change the syllabus (schedule, course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).

ⁱ <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/returning-to-campus/health-and-safety.php>

ii <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21>

iii <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/>

iv <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>

v <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

vi <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>

vii www.angelo.edu/title-ix