

# CSCI 327 Social Implications of Computing Spring 2012

Department of Computer Science and Quantitative Methods  
College of Business Administration  
Winthrop University

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 to 4:00  
Tuesday 10:00 to noon  
also available by appointment (see instructor's web page for his weekly schedule)

Revised: February 29, 2012  
revisions marked in red

## Course Description

The course includes an overview of the impact of technology and computing on society as well as issues of professionalism within the computing industry. This course satisfies both the Intensive Writing and the Oral Communication university requirements.

## Course Objectives

After completing this course, the student will:

- have a good knowledge of the history of computing and understand how computers have affected society for both good and bad
- be able to compare several general ethical theories and be able to discuss computing issues within those contexts
- know the basic laws and common practices relating to intellectual property rights and electronic privacy rights
- be able to discuss the professional obligations of a computing professional
- be able to make an effective presentation with content appropriate to the subject and audience
- be able to write effective short technical reports, medium length research reports, and basic computing project proposals

## Course Prerequisites

- CRTW 201 Critical Reading, Thinking, and Writing
- junior standing
- majoring in CSCI, CIFS, or DIFD; other majors by permission

## Texts

*Ethics for the Information Age*,  
by M.J. Quinn; Addison Wesley Inc.

*Prentice Hall Reference Guide*, custom edition for Winthrop University  
by Muriel Harris

## Attendance Policy

This course's material will be primarily covered through class discussions. This course also has a strong emphasis on student presentations. Hence participation and attendance by each student is essential for success. Additionally, exam material will be based on class lectures, discussions, and student presentations (not necessarily from the textbook). Hence, it will be extremely difficult to successfully complete the exams without coming to class. Each student may miss up to three classes without penalty. Arriving at class more than five minutes late on three occasions counts as one absence.

# GRADING

## Course Grades

### 35% Writing Assignments

- 3% in-class #1 - persuasive
- 3% in-class #2 - persuasive
- 7% medium #1 - technical report
- 7% medium #2 - project proposal
- 15% long - research paper

### 25% Presentations

- 5% group debate
- 5% short technical report
- 5% group presentation
- 10% long presentation

### 30% Exams

- 10% Midterm Exam
- 20% Final Exam

### 10% Attendance

## Late Work

- Each late assignment will lose 10 points for every 12 hours that it is submitted late.
- No makeup exams will be given without a written excuse from a health professional.

## Course Letter Grades

A	100 - 90.00
B	89.99 - 80.00
C	79.99 - 70.00
D	69.99 - 60.00
F	59.99 - 0

## Grading Criteria

All oral presentation grades will be based on a rubric (available on course web site) which includes the following criteria: organization, style, use of communication aids, depth of content, grammar and word choice, personal appearance, verbal interaction.

All writing assignment grades will be based on grammar, clarity, organization, appropriate depth of content, and appropriate use of references. This rubric, which is based on the University GenEd writing rubric, is also available on the course web site.

The major paper will be done in stages:

1. The topic must first be approved by the course instructor by **March 22**.
2. A complete draft will be submitted by **April 5**, which will count 30% of this assignment's grade.
3. The final corrected version will be due on the last day of class, **April 19**.

The group debate will be based on preparation, persuasiveness, ability to support your argument with facts, and participation.

The attendance portion of your grade will be based on the percentage of classes that you attend. As described above, each student is allowed 3 missed days (except exam days!!!).

## STANDARDS

### Requirements for Intensive Writing courses

In order to meet the university writing requirement, each student must

- write a total of 4,000 words or more (16 typed pages) with both in-class and out-of-class assignments
- revise at least one substantive assignment based on instructor's comments
- use the library or other appropriate research databases

To meet these requirements, each student in this course will complete

- two short in-class writing assignments, 1 page each;
- two medium sized out-of-class assignments:
  - one 3-page informative paper on a technical topic, and
  - one 5-page proposal for a group project;
- one research paper, to be revised once, topic may be either a recent technology development or an ethical issue, **11 to 15 pages**, minimum of 6 references and minimum of 3 non-internet references.

### Requirements for Oral Communication courses

In order to meet the university oral communication requirement, each student must

- receive instruction in oral communication skills appropriate to the discipline
- have multiple opportunities to demonstrate competence in oral communication, which may include individual presentations, group presentations, informative or persuasive speeches, debates, and class discussion

To meet these requirements, each student in CSCI 327 will

- participate in one semi-formal group debate
- make one short (10-12 minutes) informative technical presentation, based on medium writing assignment, similar to a technical briefing or conference presentation
- make one short (15 minute) group presentation, based on project proposal
- make one 20-minute presentation based on the long research writing assignment

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## ASSESSMENT

CSCI327 is used by the CSQM Department to assess the performance of CSCI majors as part of the program assessment plan for ABET accreditation.

CSCI Program Objective	Measurement in CSCI327
Ability to communicate effectively on technical subjects in the field of computing in oral and written forms.	Ability to communicate effectively orally.
	Ability to communicate effectively in writing.
Ability to take a Leadership Role	Ability to analyze decisions and actions from an ethical standpoint
	Knowledge of Professional Codes of Ethics
Development of Interpersonal Communication Skills	Ability to communicate an opinion and understand the opinions of others.
	Ability to communicate complex ideas orally.

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## **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS REGARDING PROFESSIONALISM IN THE CLASSROOM**

The College of Business Administration is a professional organization with a well-defined and widely disseminated mission of student development. Accordingly, each class represents a gathering of professionals and professionals-in-training. The instructor's job as a professional is to deliver quality instruction in each class, to start and end each class on time, to be responsive to student perspectives, issues and questions, and to treat each student respectfully. The student's job, as a professional-in-training is to be prepared for class, to be on time, to attend all classes, and to be respectful of others in the classroom.

In accordance with and pursuant to these roles the following guidelines were established to specify to students (both present and prospective) faculty expectations regarding their behaviors

1. **Students will attend all class meetings.** There are no automatically "excused" absences. In the event that you will be unable to attend a class session, you should inform your professor in advance as a matter of professional courtesy just as you would/should with an employer.
2. **Students will arrive in advance of the beginning of the class session.** Late arrivals are disruptive, inconsiderate and unprofessional. Professors may make arrangements for delinquents, but are not obliged to do so. Those not present at the beginning of the classroom period will be considered absent.
3. **Students will not converse among themselves during class except when instructed to do so.** When a student creates a disturbance in the classroom, instructors will either ask the student to desist immediately or speak to the student at the conclusion of class. Repeat offenders will be sanctioned.
4. **Students will not leave class before its conclusion.** Early departures are disruptive, inconsiderate and unprofessional. Professors may make arrangements under some circumstance, but are not obliged to do so. Those not present at the conclusion of the classroom session will be considered absent.
5. **Students will have procured textbook/materials prior to the first class.** Instruction will begin with the first class meeting and consume the remainder of the class period.
6. **Students will arrive for exams within 15 minutes of the designated starting time of the exam.** A student arriving late to an exam must finish his/her exam within the time it takes all other students to complete the exam. I.e. the instructor will not wait for a student to finish an exam if that student arrived late.

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### **Students with Disabilities**

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 803-323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

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### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The grading and attendance policies for this course, as described above, will not change and are adhered to strictly. The schedule of class meetings, listed below, may change due to unexpected events such as class cancellation due to weather.

## Tentative Schedule CSCI 327 - Spring 2012

Date	Topic	Text Reading
Jan 10	Course Overview	
Jan 12	History of Computing	Chapter 1
Jan 17	Intro to Ethics	Chapter 2
Jan 19	Critical Thinking, <b>In-Class Writing</b>	
Jan 24	Impacts of the Internet	Chapter 3
Jan 26	Intellectual Property	Chapter 4
Jan 31	Privacy in a Digital World, <b>In-Class Writing</b>	Chapter 5
Feb 2	History of U.S. Privacy Laws	
Feb 7	How to Present Technical Information 101	
<b>Feb 9</b>	<b>"Mid-Term" Exam</b>	
Feb 14	<b>Debate Selection and Preparation</b> (Dannelly absent)	
Feb 16	Research and Citation	
Feb 21	<b>Group Debate</b>	
Feb 23	Security and Intro to Encryption	Section 5.11 and 6
Feb 28	Software Reliability and Quality	Chapter 7
Mar 1	Professional Codes of Ethics	Chapter 8
Mar 6	<b>Group Proposal Presentations</b>	
Mar 8	<b>Group Proposal Presentations</b>	
Mar 13	<i>Spring Break</i>	
Mar 15	<i>Spring Break</i>	
Mar 20	<b>Technical Reports</b>	
Mar 22	<b>Technical Reports</b> , research paper topic approved	
Mar 27	<b>Technical Reports</b>	
Mar 29	<b>Technical Reports</b>	
Apr 3	Global Issues	Chapter 9
Apr 5	no class	
Apr 5	<b>Research Presentations</b> , full draft due	
Apr 10	<b>Research Presentations</b>	
Apr 12	<b>Research Presentations</b>	
Apr 17	<b>Research Presentations</b>	
Apr 19	<b>Research Presentations</b> , Course Review, final drafts due	

**Final Exam** -- Thursday April 26 at 3:00pm in the regular classroom

*bold topic indicates in-class graded activity*