CS 395-001 Social, Professional and Ethical Issues
Spring 2017, Tue & Thu 11:00am-12:15pm, EMS E237

Instructor: Adrian Dumitrescu, EMS 1081, 229-4265, email: dumitres@uwm.edu.

Office Hours: (may change) Tue & Thu 12:45–1:45pm or by appointment.

First Exam: Thu, March 9, 11:00am-12:15pm.

Second Exam: Thu, April 27, 11:00am-12:15pm.

University policies and other information: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

Prerequisites: Sophomore status or consent of instructor.

Level: U.


Outline: In this course you will learn, read, discuss and write about social, professional and ethical issues that arise in computing. In particular, you will:

- Develop critical thinking skills needed to address ethical issues.
- Explore important topics like privacy and speech, security and cybercrime, computers and work, etc.
- Learn about the ethical responsibilities of a computing professional.
- Learn about different ethical theories and how to apply them to computing-related scenarios.

Tentatively the following topics will be covered (respective chapters are specified below). Sections will be given as reading assignments and discussed in class. Additional related topics may be introduced.

1. Introduction to ethics [Ch. 1]
2. Critical reasoning skills
3. Privacy and personal information [Ch. 2]
4. Freedom of speech in cyberspace [Ch. 3]
5. Can we trust the computer?
6. Intellectual property [Ch. 4]
7. Computer crime [Ch. 5]
8. Computers and work [Ch. 6]
9. Evaluating and controlling technology [Ch. 7]
10. Errors, failures, and risks [Ch. 8]
11. Professional ethics and responsibilities [Ch. 9]
12. Broader issues on the impact of computers

Grading scheme: First Exam 20%, Second Exam 20%, In class participation 25%, Term paper 25%, Overall behavior and discipline 10%.

The exams are closed books and notes. No electronic devices are permitted. Makeup exams will not be given.

Remarks:

1. Being disciplined and having an active class participation is part of your grade. This means being active in class without disrupting the class and having a positive learning attitude. You are expected to attend class and participate in the discussions. People may have different views regarding computing or ethical issues and discussions will help you get a better understanding of the issues and controversies. Finding errors and/or inaccuracies in the lecture notes or textbook or on the board is encouraged.

2. The following rules of good behavior and discipline need to be respected: You need to show respect to the instructor and your colleagues and respectfully exchange ideas and opinions. You are expected to follow and participate in the discussion, and not be preoccupied with other activities; you also need to bring the textbook with you every class.

Occupy your seat before the start time of the class, and avoid leaving or entering during lecture time; you are asked to not bring food or
drinks to class. If you send email to the instructor you need to address it properly. When you are sick, avoid coming to class; if you still need to come (in an exceptional situation), you need to sit as isolated as possible in the back row and avoid contact with others (to minimize the chance of transmitting your illness to others).

3. Electronic devices, including laptops, tablets, phones, etc., can only be used for class purpose, and when directed so by the instructor.

4. Such devices are prohibited during exams; any such device should be turned off and put away (out of sight) in your bag. A student found in possession of an electronic device during an exam should be considered to be engaged in academic misconduct and should expect to receive a grade of zero on the exam. Before any exam you need to stow away your bag in a separate area of the exam room; you can only retrieve your bag after handing in your exam before leaving the room.

5. Attendance is not part of your grade. However, if you missed a class, you should borrow the notes for that class from another colleague. You are strongly advised to take written notes throughout the course, since not all topics may be covered in the textbook or the coverage/approach might differ from that in class. In addition, this will prepare you better for the written exams.

6. Homework assignments (exercises and questions from the book and other issues for your consideration) will be given and later discussed in class; you will be asked to present your findings in class and participate in discussions on specific topics. All materials/sources used in preparing your answers (colleague opinions, internet sources, media sources, etc) need to be clearly specified. Note that the exams may use problems taken from homework assignments, so you are strongly advised to do the homework. It is unlikely that you will perform well in this course without a substantial effort to work on and understand the assignments.

7. You are expected to provide justifications and arguments to support your answers in all your assignments and exams, regardless if the problem asked for it or not.

8. If you have to miss an exam or the deadline of an assignment because of an emergency, please contact the instructor at the earliest possible opportunity (use both e-mail and phone). If the instructor is not reachable, then try to contact the department secretary at 229-4677. No arrangements will be made for missed exams, unless these rules are followed and an acceptable evidence of legitimate emergency is submitted.

9. Plagiarism or cheating is taking someone else’s work and calling it your own. Plagiarism is not allowed and will be dealt with severely; it is a form of academic misconduct. In particular, copying from other sources (including the internet) without proper citation is disallowed. More information on academic misconduct is available at http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

10. Your work will be graded not only on the correctness of the answers, but also on the quality of presentation. An understandable handwriting is expected in your exams. Proper grammar and punctuation should be respected in your term paper.

11. There will be a group project in the form of a term paper due at the end of the semester, in the last class. Groups of 2 – 3 should be formed and each paper should be jointly prepared. Each paper should be 3 – 5 pages long and typed in 11- or 12-point font. More details to come.