CS395 Social, Professional and Ethical Issues
Fall 2019, MW 2:00–3:15 pm, PHY 145

1 Prerequisite

Sophomore status or consent of instructor.

2 Instructor Info

Instructor: Christine Cheng, EMS 1011, 229-5170, ccheng@uwm.edu.
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-2 pm, or by appointment.

3 References and Required Book


4 Description:

CS 395 is the course in the Computer Science curriculum where you will have the opportunity to learn, read, discuss and write about the social, professional and ethical issues that arise in Computing. In this course you will:

- Learn about different ethical theories and apply them to Computing-related scenarios
- Develop critical thinking skills that will help you address ethical issues
- Be informed of the ethical responsibilities of a Computing professional
- Explore important topics like privacy and speech, security and cybercrime in cyberspace, etc.

5 Tentative topics that will be covered

1. Introduction to Ethics
2. Critical Reasoning Skills
3. Ethical Theories
4. Professional Ethics
5. Search Engines and Recommendation Systems
6. Regulating Speech
7. Fake news
8. Copyright and Patents
6 Canvas page of CS 395

Check the Canvas page of CS 395 regularly. (To login to Canvas, go to www.uwm.edu/canvas.) All material for the class – slides, homework assignments, required readings, etc. – will be posted on the page. Most homework assignments will have an accompanying dropbox where you will upload your submission. After every lecture, I will also record a brief summary of the topics covered in class. All your grades will appear on the appropriate section of the D2L page.

7 HWs, Exams, and Grading Scheme

The final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

15% Attendance and in-class participation. You will get the most out of this class when you attend class and participate in the discussions. Every one of you has a slightly different view of a computing issue. Listening to each other, talking about the topic and talking through the controversies will help you gain a better understanding of the issue at hand. So – show up, listen and respectfully exchange ideas and opinions.

25% Homeworks Throughout the semester, you will be asked to do work outside of class. The homeworks will mostly consist of reading articles, watching some videos, etc. and then answering some questions. Address them as thoroughly as you can. There will be a drop-box in Canvas for you to submit each homework; you may also have to bring another copy to class for an in-class discussion. **Note: No homeworks will be accepted after the deadline.** But one or two of the lowest homework scores will be dropped when the final homework average is computed.

30% Exams There will be two exams for this class. The first one is tentatively scheduled for Week 5 or 6 and the second one around Week 11 or 12 of the semester.

30% Final Project

There will be a final group project due at the end of the semester where you will explore a current ethical issue in Computing. Details to come.

The tentative grading scale for this class is given by the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Grade</th>
<th>90 – 100</th>
<th>86.66 – 89.99</th>
<th>83.33 – 86.65</th>
<th>80 – 83.32</th>
<th>76.66 – 79.99</th>
<th>73.33 – 76.65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A –</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B–</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Grade</th>
<th>70 – 73.32</th>
<th>65 – 69.99</th>
<th>60 – 64.99</th>
<th>55 – 59.99</th>
<th>50 – 54.99</th>
<th>&lt; 50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C –</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D –</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 Expected Workload

CS 395 is a 3-credit class. Although the time spent in this class varies by student and by week, I expect the average workload to be as follows:

- In class meeting: 2.5 hours × 14 weeks = 35 hours
• Readings and homework assignments: 7 hours × 12 weeks = 84 hours
• Preparing for two exams: 6 hours × 2 = 12 hours
• Final Project: 15 hours

Total time spent on this class: 146 hours

9 Academic Misconduct

UW-Milwaukee defines academic misconduct as “an act in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation, uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise, forges or falsifies academic documents or records, intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others, engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student’s academic performance, or assists other students in any of these acts.”

A more detailed description of academic misconduct and the disciplinary procedures that accompany it can be found on this page: https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

10 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

UW-Milwaukee supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility.

If you need instructional accommodations, you are expected to inform me within the first three weeks of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. I will work either directly with you or in coordination with the Accessibility Resource Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations.

Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student’s educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.

11 Accommodation of Religious Observances

It is the policy of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents that students’ sincerely held religious beliefs shall be reasonably accommodated with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements. Please inform me within the first three weeks of the semester of the specific dates on which there is a scheduling conflict between a religious holiday you wish to observe and a potential homework due date or exam. I will work with you on how to make up the homework and/or exam.

Student notification of instructors and requests for relief under the conditions described above shall be kept confidential.

12 Emergencies Prior to Exams

In case of an emergency, contact the instructor at the earliest possible opportunity via e-mail or phone. No arrangements will be made for missed exams unless these rules are followed, and an acceptable evidence of legitimate emergency is submitted.