CSCI 300: Social Responsibility in Computer Science (Fall 2006)

Location: Weir 235
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Wednesdays and Fridays
Instructor: Prof. Yixin Chen
Office Hours: 2:00pm – 3:30pm, Tuesdays or by appointment at other times
Instructor’s Contact Information:
   Office:  219 Weir Hall
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The class website is  www.cs.olemiss.edu/~ychen/courses/CSCI300F06

Course Goals
This course covers social, legal, political, and economic issues related to computers. It intends to help students to solve issues they might face as a member of the society and in their professional lives. It also seeks to develop the students' skills in oral and written communication in a professional context.

Prerequisite
Completion of CSCI 211 and CSCI 223.

Textbook

Topics
- Privacy
- Encryption and interception of communications
- Constitutional issues
- Reliability and safety
- Freedom of speech in cyberspace
- Intellectual property
- Computer crime
- Computers and work
- Professional ethics and responsibilities

Grading
The final grade will be determined by a weighted average of class participation, quizzes, and term paper with the corresponding weights:
Class participation:  25%
Quizzes:  25%
Bibliography, critique, & term paper:  50%
The conversion between total percentage and grade is based on
Late submission of an assignment will be accepted. But there will be a penalty of 10% of that assignment’s grade for each day it is late.

Class Participation
The course will be conducted primarily as a forum of discussion. Your instructor will seldom lecture, but there will be one or more outside speakers. Most class meetings will instead consist of group activities of one kind or another. Students are expected to be involved in the discussions that will be at the heart of this course offering. The ultimate goal of the course is to enable students to express and defend their positions on these critical social and ethical issues relevant to the computing profession. Accordingly, 25% of your grade is based on your attendance at class meetings and your participation in the class activities.

Class activities include class discussions of the textbook chapters, mock trials, debates, etc. These activities are shown on the Class Schedule. To prepare for the class activities, you will need to study the assigned materials in advance. You are encouraged to go to the library and to search the Web for other relevant materials. Some of the class activities, such as debates and mock trials, will require students work as groups to prepare presentations.

Quizzes
You will be given a short quiz for each chapter discussed from the textbook. Each quiz will be given in the first 10 minutes of class. A quiz will include a combination of multiple choices, true/false, and short answer questions that covers the basic concepts and terminology of the chapter.

A quarter (25%) of your grade is determined by these quizzes. Six (6) best quiz grades will be used to compute your final grade. There will be no makeup for missed quizzes. There will be no mid-term and final examinations.

Academic Integrity
All students in CSCI 300 are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner according to the Honor Code of the School of Engineering, the Information Technology Appropriate Use Policy, the M Book, and any other relevant policies.

"The Honor Code shall apply to all students, both undergraduate and graduate, registered in and/or seeking degrees through the School of Engineering. The Honor Code shall be understood to apply to all academic areas of the School such as examinations, quizzes, laboratory reports, themes, computer programs,
homework, and other possible assignments. Only that work explicitly identified by the class instructor not to be under the Honor Code is excluded. The intent of the Honor Code is to recognize professional conduct and, thus, it shall be deemed a violation of the Honor Code to knowingly deceive, copy, paraphrase, or otherwise misrepresent your work in a manner inconsistent with professional conduct.”

Disability Services at The University of Mississippi
Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the office of Disability Services at 915-7128 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.