

CSCI 300 Seminar in Computing (Fall 2024)

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1 Logistics

1.1 Instructional Staff

Instructor: Michael Levet (He/Him/His); lastnamefirstinitial (at) cofc (dot) edu.

Lecture: MW 4-5:15, Harbor Walk West 213

1.2 Key Dates

Last Day to Drop Before Grade of ‘W’ Is Recorded: Monday, August 26.

Last Day to Drop Before with Grade of ‘W’: Friday, October 25.

Breaks: November 4-5 (Fall Break); November 27-December 1 (Thanksgiving Break). Note that the last full day of classes for the semester is Monday December 2.

Final Exam: There will be no final exam.

1.3 Course Website

All announcements will be posted to the course website: <https://michaellevet.github.io/F24/CSCI300/index.html>. Students are responsible for checking the course website daily. Assignments and other course materials will be posted to OAKS.

1.4 Office Hours

Office hours will be on Zoom. The Zoom link and days/times for office hours will be posted to my course homepage. Your success is my top priority– if any of these times don't work, please do not hesitate to email me to schedule an appointment! **If you have COVID or another contagious illness, please do not attend my office hours in-person. I will be happy to facilitate remote participation.**

2 Course Description

Prerequisite: CSCI 221 (C- or better)

2.1 Workload

CSCI 300 is a 3-credit course. I expect that most weeks, the workload outside of class will be between 1-3 hours/week. However, the work to prepare for a presentation or complete a writing assignment might require 9-12 hours for that respective week.

2.2 Course Content

A seminar course to prepare majors for careers in CS by discussing and studying professional, ethical, legal, and social issues and responsibilities in computing. Local and global impact of computing on individuals, organizations, and society will also be addressed. Oral presentations and written work will be required.

2.3 Learning Objectives

We have the following learning outcomes.

- Recall major theories of ethics.
- Explain professional, ethical, legal, and social issues and responsibilities in computing.
- Explain the importance of security and privacy in computing.
- Analyze the impact of computing on individuals and society.
- Explain the need for engaging in continuous professional development.
- Make oral presentations on assigned ethical, legal and social issues.
- Write a term paper on an ethical, legal, or social issue.

2.4 Course Text

None.

3 Course Structure and Grading

- **Speaker Series.** There will be several speakers (see the schedule on the last page), on a subset of our Monday classes. For each presentation, you will be asked to submit one question. Your question should be **thoughtful**, and not something that is routine/definitional or easily answered by a quick Google search.

Your questions will be graded on a Credit/No Credit basis. There are six speakers currently scheduled, and so there are a maximum of 6 possible points. If a speaker cancels, this will be adjusted downward

accordingly, along with thresholds for letter grades. I will provide clear, written notice to you should this happen.

Note: While I hope to record our speakers over Zoom, I require their consent to do so. If this is not possible and you are not able to come to class, then you can instead submit a two paragraph reflection of an article related to ethics in computing. **Please do not come to class if you are sick!**

- **Software Engineering Ethics Activities.** There will be three ethics activities (details to be provided in class). These will be graded on a Credit/No Credit basis, with each activity worth 1 point (for a total of 3 points). Students who do not receive credit on the first attempt will have one attempt to revise for full credit.

In general, work that demonstrates clear engagement with the content will receive credit.

- **Resumé/CV.** This semester you are required to update your resumé or academic CV (these are not the same thing!). For those of you intending to pursue an internship or full-time job after graduation, you should plan to update your resumé. If you are intending to pursue graduate studies, then it is worthwhile to update your academic CV.

There will be class time to work on your resumé/CV, including providing feedback and suggestions to your classmates.

You will turn in your final resumé or academic CV via email (see the next bullet point). Your resumé/CV will be graded on a Credit/No Credit basis and is worth 1 point. Students who do not receive credit on the first attempt will have one attempt to revise for full credit.

In general, work that demonstrates clear engagement with the content will receive credit.

- **Email.** A few of you still send unprofessional, unsigned emails to your professors. It is worthwhile to break this habit before corresponding with a future employer or graduate advisor. Please send me a business email introducing yourself and including a PDF copy of your resumé/CV with the email. Please address me as Michael, Prof. Levet, or Dr. Levet. Please make the subject line in the form of: "CSCI 300: <followed by whatever subject you find appropriate for your message>".

Your email will be graded on a Credit/No Credit basis and is worth 1 point..

Note: Please address your other professors as Prof. LastName or Dr. LastName, unless they tell you otherwise. Addressing a professor as Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss/Mx. LastName is not appropriate.

- **Career Fair.** Students are expected to attend the Career Fair. After attending, please submit to OAKS a 1-2 paragraph reflection on your experience. This will be graded on a Credit/No Credit basis and is worth 1 point.
- **Presentation.** Students will choose a topic from a list of topics presented during lecture. Students should incorporate social, legal or ethical considerations relevant to the topic in their presentations. Presentations should last for 13-15 minutes followed by 3 – 4 minutes of Q&A. Presentations will be graded as follows:

- 1 point for showing up with slides.
- 1 point for staying within the time limit.
- 1 point for being on-topic.
- 1 point for being coherent; that is, the audience should walk away with an understanding of the point you were trying to make.

If you agree to have your talk recorded on Zoom and uploaded to OAKS, I will award 2 extra points.

I *highly* recommend practicing your talk several times beforehand! Giving a talk is not easy.

- **Evaluations.** After each presentation, students will be asked to provide constructive and respectful feedback on ideas for improving future presentations. This feedback should be non-trivial. Each evaluation is worth 1 point, and will be graded on a Credit/No Credit basis. Students can earn a maximum of 7 points via evaluations.

- **Term Paper.** Write an interesting essay on a technological happening in the world. Include information related to ethics, social, or legal issues surrounding your topic. Make arguments for or against the topic you choose. Be sure to have at least 5 sources and cite those sources in a format of your choosing.

Additionally, you must find time to meet with me for 5 minutes and explain the issues surrounding your topic.

More details will follow.

The term paper will be graded as follows:

- 1 point for having at least 5 sources and citing them correctly.
- 1 point for discussing the ethics, social, or legal issues related to your topic.
- 1 point for turning in your paper draft mid-semester.
- 1 point for meeting with me and explaining your topic. If you do not meet with me, then you do not get credit for anything related to the term paper.
- 1 point for reasonably correct spelling and grammar.

3.1 Final Grade Calculations

There are a total of 28 possible points available (+2 points for allowing your presentation to be recorded). Final grades will be issued according to the following cutoffs:

- A: ≥ 26 points.
- A-: 25 points.
- B+: 24 points.
- B: 23 points.
- B-: 22 points.
- C+: 21 points.
- C: 20 points.
- C-: 19 points.
- D+: 18 points.
- D: 17 points.
- D-: 16 points.
- F: $n \leq 15$ points.

Note that the +2 points for allowing your presentation to be recorded corresponds to adding $2/28 = 7.1\%$ your grade.

3.2 Regrade Requests

Students have 7 days (including weekends) from when a grade was returned to request a regrade. I am happy to fix mistakes in grading. Other regrade requests will not be considered. When you submit a regrade, please clearly indicate the error made in grading. All regrade requests must be submitted using the Google form on the course homepage.

3.3 Honor Code

I expect students are familiar with policies pertaining to academic integrity, outlined in the Student Handbook. You are welcome and encouraged to discuss the homework problems with each other and with me. It is expected that you work the problems by yourself first, so that you can contribute to the discussion. This policy will be changed, reluctantly, if I find it is being abused. **Your submissions must be written in your own words and reflect your understanding of the material.** Note that you are responsible for citing any resource (including other people) that are not members of the course staff, the course lecture notes, or the lectures. Posting to online forums for help (e.g., Chegg, Reddit, StackExchange, etc.) is an **honor code violation**. Regurgitating solutions from generative AI (including, but not limited to ChatGPT) is an honor code violation. If there are any questions regarding this policy, please ask the instructor.

Any acts of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students and addressed through the conduct process. Students found responsible for honor code violations will be subject to the following minimum penalties:

- (a) You will receive -2 points on the assignment in question.
- (b) You will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity, which may choose to impose additional penalties.

Honor code violations may result in an XXF for the course, which carries the same weight as an F. The XX modifier denotes that the grade was received for academic integrity violations. **Please do not cheat.** It is not worth it.

4 Course Policies

4.1 Office Hours vs. Email

I am generally happy to discuss course logistics via email (e.g., scheduling appointments, etc.). However, email is usually not a conducive medium for tutoring. If you email me with a question about the homework (and you are certainly welcome to do so), I reserve the right to ask you to come to office hours with your question. Note that this does associate some risk with procrastination, in that you may not get your question answered until after the assignment due date (or after the quiz/exam). Similarly, if you email me late at night, I may not see your email until after the assignment is due. Please plan accordingly.

4.2 Late Work

Late work will **not** be accepted, unless prior arrangements have been made or in case of emergency situations. Extensions can be requested using the Google form on the course homepage. I recognize that you all will frequently have competing deadlines, including for your other classes as well as personal obligations. There is not always time to meet all of one's deadlines. The way to handle these situations is to communicate reasonably in advance. For non-emergency situations, please request an extension at least 24 hours in advance. In general, I encourage you to ask for what you need. While I will in general try to be flexible for short-term extensions, do note that that requesting an extension does not guarantee that you will receive one.

4.3 Late Enrollments

Students who enroll in the course after the first day of class are subject to the same deadlines as the rest of the class.

4.4 Attendance

Attendance is not required and will only be taken during the first two weeks, for the purpose of attendance verification as required by CofC. Students who have not engaged with class by attending, completing assignments, or emailing me may be reported as having "never attended." If you are sick, please stay home—let me know if this is in the first two weeks, so that you do not get dropped. In particular, if you have COVID, please quarantine until such time as you are not contagious. I will be happy to facilitate remote participation in these instances. In the event that any member of the class (myself included) contracts COVID, I reserve the right to move the entire class online.

Note that ≥ 0 class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

4.5 Modifications to the Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to modify any of the policies in the syllabus at any time, particularly as dictated by the interests of learning and fairness. Students will not be graded any harsher than as outlined in Section 3.1.

4.6 Student Feedback

Student feedback regarding this course is welcome at any time. Those who wish to leave feedback anonymously are welcome to do so using the Google form on the course homepage. Students are also welcome to reach out to the instructor via email or in office hours to discuss their concerns.

5 Required Syllabus Statements

5.1 Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please contact the instructor within the first two weeks to discuss any conflicts with religious events.

5.2 Students with Disabilities

The Center for Disability Services/SNAP is committed to assisting qualified students with disabilities achieve their academic goals by providing reasonable academic accommodations under appropriate circumstances. If you have a disability and anticipate the need for an accommodation in order to participate in this class, please connect with the Center for Disability Services/SNAP. They will assist you in getting the resources you may need to participate fully in this class. You can contact the Center for Disability Services/SNAP office at 843.953.1431 or at snap@cofc.edu. You can find additional information and request academic accommodations at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP website.

If you are not registered with SNAP and believe you may need a disability accommodation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

5.3 Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction

In the event of inclement weather, I will communicate a detailed plan for how class will proceed (if at all). Please prioritize your safety in these situations, including any need to evacuate. If there is a need to evacuate, I will also be prioritizing my own evacuation. The university has allocated make-up days on the weekends to be used if class is canceled for inclement weather. I will communicate in a timely manner for if/how these days will be used.

In the event of a surge in the ongoing COVID pandemic, I reserve the right to make adjustments to the structure of the class. In particular, if there exists at least one member of the class with COVID, I reserve the right to move the course online.

6 Acknowledgments

I wish to thank Prof. Stalvey for sharing her materials. Much of this syllabus has been adopted from hers.

7 Schedule (Tentative)

Note that this schedule is subject to change.

Class	Date	Topic
1	Aug. 21	Syllabus, Intro to Resumés/CVs
2	Aug. 26	Work on Resumés/CVs
3	Aug. 28	Class Canceled– Departmental Ice Cream Social
4	Sept. 2	Intro to Ethics
5	Sept. 4	More Ethics
6	Sept. 9	Speaker: Jim Allison, Career Center
7	Sept. 11	More Ethics
8	Sept. 16	Speakers: Profs. Hashemi and Lovellette (Grad School Options)
9	Sept. 18	Student Presentations
10	Sept. 23	Student Presentations
11	Sept. 25	Student Presentations
12	Sept. 30	Student Presentations
13	Oct. 2	Student Presentations
14	Oct. 7	Speaker: Prof. Calvin Blackwell (Economics)
15	Oct. 9	Work on Resumés/CVs
16	Oct. 14	Class Canceled– Prepare for Career Fair
17	Oct. 16	Student Presentations
18	Oct. 21	Speaker: Prof. Rashid
19	Oct. 23	Student Presentations
20	Oct. 28	Student Presentations
21	Oct. 30	Student Presentations
	Nov. 4	No Class (Election Day/Fall Break)
22	Nov. 6	Student Presentations
23	Nov. 11	Speakers: CAT Lab
24	Nov. 13	Student Presentations
25	Nov. 18	Speaker: Prof. Stacie Baumann (Math)
26	Nov. 21	Work on Term Paper
27	Nov. 25	Work on Term Paper
	Nov. 27	No Class (Thanksgiving)
28	Dec. 2	Work on Term Paper