

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Department and Course Number: CSCI 300

Course Title: Social Responsibility in Computer Science

Current Catalog Description : Study of the nature and need for social responsibility and ethical behavior in computing and the computer professions.

Total Credits: 1 hour

Coordinator: Dawn Wilkins, Associate Professor of Computer and Information Science

Textbook: Sara Baase. *A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal and Ethical Issues in Computing*, Prentice Hall, 1997.

Other required materials: None

References: <http://www.cs.olemiss.edu/~dwilkins/CSCI300/>

Course Goals:

1. To strengthen the image of computer science, computer engineering and software engineering as learned professions with established standards of ethical behavior;
2. To promote awareness of the impact of computer-centered activities on the welfare of society;
3. To identify potentially harmful consequences of computer-centered activities.

Prerequisites by Topic: Technical maturity in computing as represented by completion of (CSIC 211) Computer Science III and Computer Organization and Assembly Language (CSCI 223)

Major Topics Covered in the Course:

1. Privacy
2. Wiretapping and encryption
3. Constitutional issues
4. Risks, safety, and responsibility
5. Software intellectual property issues
6. Computer crime
7. Computers in the workplace
8. Impact and control of computers
9. Professional ethics and responsibilities

Laboratory projects: None.

Estimate of ABET/CAC Category Content:

	CORE	ADVANCED		CORE	ADVANCED
Data Structures	_____	_____	Computer Organization and Architecture	_____	_____
Algorithms	_____	_____	Concepts of Programming Languages	_____	_____
Software Design	_____ 1 _____	_____		_____	_____

Oral and Written Communications:

Every student is required to submit at least 1 written report (not including exams, tests, quizzes, or commented programs) of typically 7-10 pages and to make 0 oral presentations. This includes only material that is graded for grammar, spelling, style, and so forth, as well as for technical content, completeness, and accuracy.

Students must participate in discussions and debates on the topics covered in the class.

Social and Ethical Issues:

This 1-hour course is devoted entirely to social responsibility and ethics. Students are given short in-class quizzes over the major topics, and are required to write a research paper on a related topic. Most of the class is devoted to class discussion, role-playing, current events and guest speakers. All students must contribute to the discussion. If they do not volunteer, they are called upon. There are approximately 15-16 classes, distributed as follows:

1. Privacy (2 hours)
2. Wiretapping and encryption (1 hour)
3. Constitutional issues (2 hours)
4. Risks, safety, and responsibility (2 hours)
5. Software intellectual property issues (2 hours)
6. Computer crime (1 hour)
7. Computers in the workplace (1 hour)
8. Impact and control of computers (1 hour)
9. Professional ethics and responsibilities (3 hours)

Theoretical Content (Foundations): None

Problem Analysis and Solution Design:

The reading materials and class discussions involve social and ethical issues that affect how computing professionals approach analysis of problems and design of computer-based solutions to them.