

Syllabus: Computing and Society

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: CS 4001

Course Name: Computing and Society (3 credits)

Semester: 2026 Barcelona Summer Program

Instructor: Swire, Peter, swire@gatech.edu

Course Description

Examines the role and impact of information and communication technology in society, with emphasis on ethical, professional, and public policy issues.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Study ethical principles and explore ethical topics concerning the role and impact of information and communications technology.
2. Study public policy and legal principles and explore such topics concerning the role and impact of information and communications technology.
3. Explore the impact of these ethical, policy and legal analyses on professionalism for those studying computer science.
4. Develop oral and legal skills in exploring and debating the above.

Required Course Materials

The text for the course is Michael J. Quinn, Ethics for the Information Age (8th ed.), which is available for rent or purchase online. Readings will also be assigned without charge from online sources or posted in Canvas.

Grading Policy

Grading will be based on two major portions:

(1) Exams and quizzes. There will be at least one midterm and a final exam. In the event that class preparation calls for it, there may be additional quizzes or possibly a second mid-term. (60% of final grade).

(2) Class participation, including oral presentations and short written preparations. Because the class is dedicated to exploring, explaining, and debating relevant issues, students will make at least two oral presentations to the class, along short written documents summarizing key points. Students will be expected to be prepared to participate actively in class. (40% of final grade).

A: $90 \leq \text{Final Grade} \leq 100$

B: $80 \leq \text{Final Grade} < 90$
C: $70 \leq \text{Final Grade} < 80$
D: $60 \leq \text{Final Grade} < 70$
F: Final Grade < 60

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected for classes in the summer program. Each student will be permitted to have one unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence, beyond the first, will result in a 5-point (5%) reduction in your final grade for EACH unexcused absence outside of the 1 free miss.

Academic and Research Honesty/Integrity Statement

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards.

Review the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Academic Honor Code](#), including where applicable the [Graduate Addendum to the Academic Honor Code](#).

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs. Contact the [Office of Student Disabilities](#).

Extensions and Late Assignments

Extensions for a test or written assignment are available on an individual basis only with approval by the instructor prior to the time of submission.