

Course Information

Course Prefix, Number, and Section: CS 3001 B

Course Name: Computing & Society

Instructor: Melinda McDaniel

Semester: Summer

Academic Year: 2026

Course Description

This class will discuss the impacts of technology on individuals, organizations and society.

Course Learning Outcomes

Reasoning ethically about dilemmas created by technology.

Understanding the professional responsibilities of computing professionals.

Learn about contemporary issues in computing and society.

Required Course Materials

Ethics for the Information Age by Michael Quinn 8th or 9th Edition. A pdf is fine. An older version might be allowed with instructor approval.

Grading Policy

- 10% Lecture Day Participation and Activities
- 20% Discussion Day Participation and Activities
- 15% Homework Assignments
- 15% Midterm Exam
- 15% Final Exam
- 25% Term Paper

Grades will not be rounded (A>90, B>80, C>70 etc.)

Attendance Policy

This will be an active classroom and weekly discussion section, and you will be expected to attend and participate. Two missed lectures and workshop sessions can be made up in TA office hours, but both exams must be taken in person.

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 Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the [student Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations. This includes unauthorized use of AI Tools.

[Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) 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.

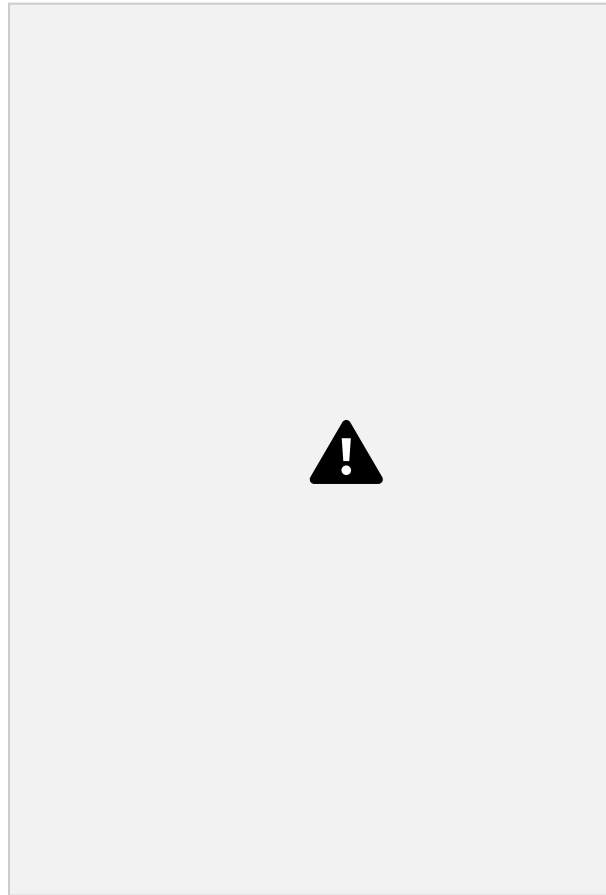
[Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement](#)

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Melinda McDaniel

Instructor

mcdaniel@cc.gatech.edu



Chris Arul Arasu

TA

xarasu3@gatech.edu

(If emailing please include CS3001 along with a descriptive subject in the subject line.)

Office Hours

Dr. McDaniel's office hours will be held Monday from 5:45 PM - 6:30 PM and Wednesday from 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM in CCB 259 or by appointment.

Chris's office hours will be in-person 11:30am to 12:30pm on Wednesdays, location TBD. I will also hold online office hours on Thursdays 3pm - 4pm or by appointment (please email me!).

Hello!

Hi! Welcome to CS3001: Computing and Society.

This home page can be considered your syllabus.

Textbook

- [Ethics for the Information Age](#), Eighth or Ninth Edition, by Michael Quinn
 - ISBN-13: 9780135217979
 - pdf format is fine - an older edition may be acceptable with instructor approval.

Format

Lectures are synchronous and on campus.

- All information for the class will be shared on Canvas and during lectures.
- Canvas modules will be used to host lecture content and homework assignments.
- Homework assignments and the Final Term Paper will be assigned on Canvas and submitted on Canvas.
- Attendance on Monday and Wednesday are mandatory and participation is required. One Monday and one Wednesday can be missed during the semester and made up in the TA office hours. Studio hours will be used on an "as needed" basis.

Course Objectives

In this class, you will learn about:

1. **Ethics:** What do "right" and "wrong" mean anyway? How is "ethical" different from "legal"? We'll learn about several philosophical approaches to ethics including utilitarianism, Kantianism, social contract theory, and virtue ethics. The goal is for students to be able to address ethical dilemmas with reasoned arguments, grounded in a combination of these ethical theories.
2. **Professional Ethics:** What special responsibilities do we have as computing professionals? What do the Software Engineering Code of Ethics and ACM Code of Ethics say, and how can we use these in our daily practice?
3. **Computing and Society:** In what ways does computer technology impact society? We'll talk about a host of issues including privacy, intellectual property, and freedom of speech.

Grading Breakdown

- **Lecture Day Participation and Activities 10%:**
 - These will occur this summer mostly on Mondays. Melinda will primarily cover the sections from the textbook that will be included on your midterm and final exam. The lecture will include short answer quizzes to make sure you are paying attention, and a grade for your participation during the discussion period that will follow the lecture. One of these lecture participation activities may be missed and you can make it up during the TA office hours.
- **Discussion Day Participation 20%:**
 - These will occur this summer mostly on Wednesdays. Chris will primarily cover the assigned outside readings that are assigned each week.
- **Homework Assignments 15%:**
 - These are written assignments that will also include a scheduled demo time with Chris or Melinda.
- **Midterm 15%:**
 - The midterm will be composed of a combination of essay type questions and short answer questions.
- **Final Exam 15%:**
 - The final will be composed of a combination of essay type questions and short answer questions.
- **Term Paper 25%:**
 - **Outline 5%**
 - **Paper 10%**
 - **In-class Presentation and Q/A session: 10%**

Attendance Policy

This will be an active classroom and weekly discussion section, and you will be expected to attend and participate every Monday and Wednesday. The Studio section that you also enrolled in will be used for Demos and other special activities, but will not be used every week.

Participation Grade Determination

It is my goal for this to be a involved, discussion-oriented class. You are expected to be active in class, both Monday with me and Wednesday with Chris. Remember to support your own position with logical arguments and facts, and remember to truly listen to your classmates and do your best to genuinely understand their position. Recall that the goal of class is not to "win" an argument, it is to have a fruitful discussion that leads the intellectual growth of you, your co-conversators, and any onlookers to the conversation. Please be aware that your participation grade may include in-class activities, as well as the occasional assignment that involves coming to class pre-prepared with about ~1 minute's worth of information to share

with the class.

For the participation grade rubric, I will steal the following excellent rubric (adapted slightly) from Dr. Beki Grinter:

10/ 10	students come with questions/comments, listen to others, advance discussion.
7/ 10	students ask questions but do not listen and advance conversation, they offer opinions but do not articulate ideas.
4/ 10	student unengaged, contributions are perfunctory or irrelevant.
0/ 10	students come, but are completely unengaged and unprepared.

At around the time of the midterm, I will send everyone what their participation grade would be if the semester was ending at that point.

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