

CS 3001 D

Computing, Society, and Professionalism

Spring 2027 Syllabus

CRN - 32069

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Spring 2027 Info

- Lecture meets in **TSRB 132, MW 3:30 - 4:20**
- Recitation sections meet in individual rooms - see Oscar or Canvas page
- Lecture materials, assignments, announcements, and schedule changes will be posted to the Canvas site, so please check it regularly

Learning Objectives

In this class, you will learn about:

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.

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?

Computing and Society

In what ways does computer technology impact society? We'll talk about a host of issues including privacy, intellectual property, artificial intelligence, and freedom of speech.

Texts

Required Texts:

- [Ethics for the Information Age](#), Ninth Edition, by Michael Quinn
Please make sure to read the correct edition of the Quinn book, since content in it gets quickly out of date.
 - [Visual & Statistical Thinking: Displays of Evidence for Decision Making](#) by [Edward R. Tufte](#). Graphics Press, 1997.
Note that this little book reproduces chapter 2 of Tufte's book *Visual Explanations*.
 - Articles available online (links on Canvas).
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Section Discussions

In addition to lecture twice a week, you will be a part of a section small group (15 people) for detailed discussions. Attendance in sections is mandatory - each section will have an assignment that you are responsible for. Make sure to do the readings listed in canvas before section and attend lectures. Your TA will lead discussions and will be noting attendance, participation, and whether you are prepared or not.

Assignments

Homeworks will be graded on a list of criteria (specified on the assignment) such as quality of writing, completeness, insight into technical issues, insight into social issues, etc. For each criterion, you will receive either a check plus, check, or check minus. Most criterion will receive a check. A plus means "you impressed me." A minus means the assignment is incomplete, incorrect, or sloppy in some fashion with respect to that criterion. Needless to say, **you should not use artificial intelligence** to write your homework assignments or term paper, we will be using AI detectors and you will receive a grade of zero for any assignment that you did not write yourself. This includes language translators, so please do not use those either, they get flagged as AI.

Please hand all assignments in on Canvas unless explicitly instructed otherwise.

If English is not your first language, you may request to not be graded on your writing for a particular individual assignment, including the term paper. This means you won't be penalized for bad writing, but you also won't get credit for good writing. To take advantage of this option, you must mark "ESL" (English as a Second Language) on the first page of your assignment/paper. This option is not available for group assignments. We still of course expect you to try to write in correct English, and will do our best to offer useful feedback on your writing.

Term Paper

You will pick a topic related to the course materials and write a term paper, which will be graded on quality of research, insight into computing and society issues, quality of writing, and bibliography. The paper should be 8-10 pages, single space, maximum font 12 point Times Roman. On the last class of the semester, students will have an opportunity to earn extra credit on the term paper by presenting your topic to the class.

Assignments and Grading

- Lecture and Section Attendance (10%) – 2 points of this are pop quizzes in lecture described below
- Section Participation (15%)
[Section Expectations](#) and [Section Grading Rubric](#)
- Homeworks (20%)
Note that the term paper proposal and outline count as homework assignments.
- Midterm (15%)
- Term Paper (25%)
- Final Exam (15%)

Late Policy

Assignments are due 15 minutes before the start of our assigned class time on the day they are due (3:15 p.m. ET). Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 3% (one grade step: A becomes A-) per day. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted.

Please double space your assignments.

Over the course of the term, you have three "late days" where work may be late with no explanation needed. Please mark 'use my late days' on the first page of your assignment/paper if want to use your late days when you make late submissions. Use your late days wisely as different submissions have different weights. If you have used your late days on a low-value assignment, you can't later transfer them to a different assignment.

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is required for both lectures and sections. Your section leader will

record your lecture and section attendance. All lecture and section meetings are in person, unless you are ill or have another documented excuse (which must be communicated BEFORE class or section). We expect everyone to attend lecture in person. For lecture, we will not formally take attendance, but we will have random pop quizzes over the readings. If you are present, you will receive 1 point, and if you answer the question correctly, you will receive 2 points. If you are not present or excused, you will receive a 0. This cannot be made up. The average of the pop quizzes will represent 2 points of your final grade. Please remember to get notes from a classmate if you miss a lecture, not everything is on the posted lecture slides.

You may not miss any sections, unless you have a documented excuse. You may be able to attend another section in case of a documented excuse, coordinate with your TA and the TA of the section you wish to attend.

If you need to miss class for a legitimate reason, please email the professor before lecture and your section instructor before section. Legitimate reasons for missing class include illness, a job interview, or attending a professional conference. Excuses that will NOT be accepted include, for example, picking someone up at the airport, having something due in another class, or having furniture delivered.

If you are sick, please stay home. If you notify us at least an hour before class that you are sick, we will provide low-fidelity recordings of class (turning a recording on, but focusing on paying attention to people in the room). Links will be posted on Canvas. Please also get notes from a classmate. Do not depend on lectures being recorded – this is only in case of documented excused absences

To request an excused absence, email the professor with your name, GT ID, preferred email, phone number, section number and TA name, and reason for missing lecture or section. Include any documentation that you may have. This must be done BEFORE the class or section you will miss.

The material in this class is best understood through discussion. Therefore, sections are important. Section participation is graded. Your lowest single section grade will be dropped.

Before section, you must attend or watch the lectures for that week and do the readings. Your section leader will deduct substantially from your participation grade if you are not prepared. If you have a legitimate reason to miss section, you may request to attend a different section. Talk to your TA. We cannot accommodate all such requests due to room size and group size limits, but will try our best.

If you miss section for a legitimate reason and can't make another section, you may be given a makeup assignment. The make-up assignment will typically consist of answering all the questions for discussion in writing, and one more essay that asks you to synthesize what is important. Email your TA for the make-up assignment.

This includes students who added the class late, are ill, have a job interview, or whatever other reason. Make-up assignments may be handed in up to two weeks after the missed section; up to one week later for the final section.

No Multi-Tasking in Lecture or Section

Please do not use your laptop or cell phone during section for anything other than referring to assigned readings. Please take notes by hand on paper. If you need an exception to this policy, please set up a time to talk with the instructor.

Reference Format

Please use APA format for all references. APA format is described [here](#).

Honor Code

This class abides by the [Georgia Tech Honor Code](#). All assigned work is expected to be individual, except where explicitly written otherwise. You are encouraged to discuss the assignments with your classmates; however, what you hand in should be your own work.

Plagiarism - Please be careful not to copy sentences from readings/references into your assignments verbatim. Sometimes this happens accidentally. For example, a student may copy and paste a sentence into their file of notes, and then later refer to their notes and forget that the sentence is not their own. If you copy anything into notes, make sure to write where you got it from. Other times, students who are struggling with English as a second language may copy sentences because they are unsure of the language. Do not do this. Remember that we have a lenient policy on grading for ESL students. If copied sentences are detected and the copying appears incidental, the assignment will be penalized for 5 to 10 points per sentence. If the copying is more extensive, the student will be referred to the Office of Student Integrity.

Generative AI - Obviously, using Generative AI systems (such as CHAT-GPT, PaLM, or Claude) is cheating and is not allowed. We will be using AI detection technology to monitor this, violations will receive a zero for the assignment and will be referred to the Office of Student Integrity.

Statement of Intent for Inclusivity

As members of the Georgia Tech community, we are committed to creating a learning environment in which all of our students feel safe and included. Because we are individuals with varying needs, we are reliant on your feedback to achieve this goal. To that end, we invite you to enter into dialogue with us about the things we can stop, start, and continue doing to make our classroom an environment in which every student feels valued and can engage actively in our learning community.

Acknowledgments

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