CS300T Computers in Society

Fall 2016
Course Syllabus
There is no textbook. There is no final exam

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have gained an increased awareness of the relative impact that technological development and the digital computer have had on society. Students will work in groups to research areas including, but not limited to, the impact of computers on societal issues; influence of digital communication and social networks; computer crime and fraud; intellectual property rights and constitutional issues; the importance of technological reliability; encryption; and ethical behavior. Group assignments determine assigned topics and deadlines.

Each group will collaboratively develop one Group Wiki on an assigned topic. Each student will individually write one theme specialist Blog on an assigned topic. Each student will individually create one Presentation for a self-selected thesis (either pro or con) for an assigned topic. Each student will individually write one Research Paper on a topic, of his or her choosing, relevant to this course.

High quality wikis will be considered for use in future course offerings, by integrating them into existing Modules. By not dropping this course, students agree to this use of their contributed material. It is each student’s choice whether or not his or her name will be attached to this module topic.

Course information exists as content modules in Blackboard. Students are responsible for completing these modules according to the provided schedule.

Course Limitations

The subject area of "Computers in Society" is so vast that CS300T can do nothing more than scratch the surface. We will aim for breadth rather than depth in the course modules and for depth rather than breadth in assignments. We will strive to strike a balance between a systematic approach provided through the course documents and a current-event dominated approach for the research-oriented parts of the course.

Course Modules

- History of Computers
- History of the Internet

Blog and Wiki Areas
- Societal Issues
- Communications and Social Networks
- Crime and Prevention
- Intellectual Property and Constitutional Issues
- Reliability
- Professional Ethics and Responsibilities

Presentation Areas
- Education
- Medicine
- Transportation
- Finance and Business
- Entertainment
- Marketing and Trade
**Group Assignment**

During the second week of class, each student will be assigned to a color-coded group. This assignment will be visible under the *Groups* section of Blackboard. This designation will determine both assignment topics and assignment deadlines.

**Group Topic Assignments**

The following table lists the topic for each Assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Blog Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Wiki Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presentation Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1 Blue</td>
<td>Module 9</td>
<td>Intellectual Property</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Societal Issues</td>
<td>Module 6</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2 Cyan</td>
<td>Module 10</td>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Module 7</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3 Green</td>
<td>Module 11</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Privacy</td>
<td>Module 8</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 4 Yellow</td>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Module 9</td>
<td>Intellectual Property</td>
<td>Module 12</td>
<td>Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 5 Red</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Societal Issues</td>
<td>Module 10</td>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>Module 13</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 6 Magenta</td>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Privacy</td>
<td>Module 11</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Module 14</td>
<td>Marketing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignment Overview**

There are four major course assignments: Blog, Group Wiki, Presentation, and Research Paper. There are 5 Presentation Critiques, 5 Wiki Critiques, and 5 Blog Comments. There is one optional extra credit assignment.

Each aforementioned major assignment will correspond to a specific Module—with the exception of the Research Paper. All students are expected to review the full documentation for all assignments. The requirements for each assignment include guidance and samples.

**Biography Blog**

The Biography Blog serves as an introductory assignment. It provides students, during the second week of class, an opportunity to introduce themselves to their colleagues.

A comprehensive listing of requirements is available on Blackboard under *Blog-*Requirements.

**Blog**

The blog assignment is a short post relating to the assigned module for the current week. There are three components to the Blog assignment:

1. Initial Blog Post
2. (Colleague) Blog Comment
3. Response

During the week a Group’s assigned Blog Module is covered in class, each member of the Group will make a short individual post. This post must relate to the assigned Module. Once the remainder of the class has commented on the Blog posts, each group member will complete a Blog Response. In this response each group member will address the comments left by his or her colleagues. Students who make the initial Blog post are not expected to comment on any posts made by their fellow Group members.

A comprehensive listing of requirements is available on Blackboard under *Blog-*Requirements.
**Group Wiki**

The Group Wiki is the only **collaborative** group assignment. The Group Wiki has two components:

1. Group Wiki Outline
2. Final Group Wiki

During the week immediately prior to a Group’s Module, a **collaborative** Wiki Outline must be submitted. During the week the Module is discussed in class, members of the Group will **collaborate** to generate and edit content. **It is important that individuals submit the parts they contribute themselves so they will get credit for their personal grade. Do not have one person submit all the content.**

The best wikis in the course may be included in future offerings of the course as new topics in that module. By staying registered in the course, students concur with the addition of their contribution to the course.

All students will submit brief Wiki Critiques for all wikis composed by groups other than their own.

A comprehensive listing of Group Wiki requirements is available on Blackboard under **Wiki->Requirements.**

**Presentation**

The Presentation an **individual** assignment. The Presentation is composed of two parts:

1. Presentation Thesis
2. Final Presentation

All members of a particular Group will submit an **individual** Presentation. Each student will select a thesis—either pro or con—that relates to the assigned Module. All Presentations must pertain to the assigned Module. **For web courses, students must include either audio or a transcript indexed to the individual slides.**

All students will submit brief Presentation Critiques for all presentations other than those submitted by their own group members.

A comprehensive listing of requirements is available on Blackboard under **Presentation->Requirements.**

**Research Paper**

The Research Paper an **individual** assignment. The Research Paper is composed of three parts:

1. Research Thesis & Outline
2. Rough Draft
3. Final Research Paper

Students may individually select a topic for the Research Paper. The selected topic must be distinct from those used in other assignments. Students will then select a thesis and submit it for feedback. Students will submit their rough draft (one submission attempt) to SafeAssign, a plagiarism checking tool. If the SafeAssign score exceeds 20%, students are advised to evaluate the issues raised by the report. Students will submit a Final Draft, after completing any corrections.

A comprehensive listing of requirements is available on Blackboard under **Research Paper->Requirements.**
Extra Credit Wiki (Optional)

The Extra Credit Wiki is an individual assignment. It is subject to the same general requirements as the Group Wiki. Students may write one extra credit wiki to receive up to 10 extra credit points. Extra Credit Wikis can be submitted at any time through the end of week 11. Grades for the extra credit wiki will be posted during the last three weeks of the course.

The extra credit wiki can be on any topic within the following modules:

- Module 1: History of Computers
- Module 2: History of the Internet
- Module 7: Medicine
- Module 8: Transportation
- Module 11: Ethics

Extra Credit Wikis may be included integrated into the Modules for future offerings of CS 300. By staying registered in the course, students agree to this use of their contributed material.

Overall Calendar

In the Calendar section on the main course panel of Blackboard we will provide a calendar that details the deadlines for the Group Wiki, the Blog, the Presentation, and the Research Paper. This includes the deadlines of all Presentation Critiques, Wiki Critiques, and Blog Comments. In the same Calendar section we provide a link to an interactive calendar, and direct links to each group’s personalized calendar. The Interactive Calendar will list the remaining deadlines for the semester and the maximum number of points you could have earned so far in the semester. All Assignments are due on the listed dates no later than 11:59pm ET (GMT -05:00).

Course Policies

Any assignment submission turned in after the corresponding due date will be assigned a grade of ZERO, unless the instructor has provided prior permission. Any student who fails to perform in a satisfactory manner on the presentation or research paper may possibly not pass the course regardless of overall point total.

All communication must remain professional and respectful. All course related communication MUST be done through Blackboard and will be read by the instructor and/or a teaching assistant. Any messages deemed unacceptable can result in a grade penalty and may be reported as a violation of the Honor Code.

All students are expected to abide by the ODU Honor Code. This means that all assignments are to be the exclusive work of the student with the exception of the collaborative portions of group assignments. For more details on the ODU honor code, refer to the Honor pledge: http://orgs.odu.edu/hc/pages/Honor_Code.shtml.

Any plagiarism will be dealt with severely with a minimum penalty of a grade of ZERO for the assignment. This is considered a violation of the Honor Code and could result in formal charges.

Computer Competency

All students are expected to be familiar with and able to use Microsoft Office, specifically Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint. All assignments must be completed using this software suite. Note that Old Dominion University provides access to Office365 for all registered students. More information can be found on the ITS home page, https://www.odu.edu/ts/software-services/office365.html.
Technical Issues and Questions

Students having technical issues accessing or using certain systems should consult first the available online documentation and tutorials in Blackboard. If problems persist, contact next the teaching assistants who specialize in the area of the problem before communicating with the instructor for your course section. This can be done through email or posting your questions under Tools > Discussion Board > Do you have questions--where the instructor or students can post responses from which all students can benefit.

Teaching Assistants

Presentation: Kristina Krasnolobova  
Wiki: Maha Abdelaal  
Research Paper: Tommy Pollock  
Blog: Abdulla Alasaadi

Questions concerning health and wellness in connection with course load or individual assignments should be directed to your instructor.

Course Grading

You can see your progress in the course in the total column in the grade center which has the following interpretation: ‘Your total grade for the semester, computing all un-submitted and un-graded assignments as 0.’

You can add your expected grades on those assignments to this to predict what you will have at the end of the semester. You can also check the interactive calendar and interact with the “Grade dashboard” that lets you estimate your grade.

All assignments will be graded within 14 days, exceptions are the extra wiki and feedback for the outline/ thesis for the paper and the presentation. For details see the appropriate requirements documents. The specific points for each assignment are described in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Element</th>
<th>Points Towards Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group Wiki</strong> – one in collaboration with group members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wiki as a whole</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Individual Student</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blog</strong> – one post, one response, five comments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Biography Blog during Week 2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Blog Post</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Blog Response</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- One Comment During Each Other Blogging Week</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong> – one individually</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Critiques</strong> – five wikis and five presentations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Paper</strong> – one individually</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Penalties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2 points for not posting wiki outline</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2 points for not using SafeAssign</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bonus</strong> – One new topic for a self-selected area in wiki style</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We will use the following grading schema:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We will complete a rubric for each assignment. Each rubric will contain explanations for each deduction and each assignment grade. You will be able to access the rubric for each assignment by visiting Tools->My Grades and clicking on the corresponding assignment grade.

You are permitted one submission attempt per assignment. If you experience technical difficulties—e.g., an incomplete file is submitted or the file upload is unsuccessful—contact the instructor before the assignment deadline. Include the issue you experienced, CRN, and assignment—as an attachment—in your email.

**Educational Accessibility**

Old Dominion University is committed to ensuring equal access to all qualified students with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Office of Educational Accessibility (OEA) is the campus office that works with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

- If you experience a disability which will impact your ability to access any aspect of my class, please present me with an accommodation letter from OEA so that we can work together to ensure that appropriate accommodations are available to you.

- If you feel that you will experience barriers to your ability to learn and/or testing in my class but do not have an accommodation letter, please consider scheduling an appointment with OEA to determine if academic accommodations are necessary.

The Office of Educational Accessibility is located at 1021 Student Success Center and their phone number is (757) 683-4655. Additional information is available at the OEA website: [http://www.odu.edu/educationalaccessibility/](http://www.odu.edu/educationalaccessibility/)

Students are encouraged to self-disclose disabilities that have been verified by the Office of Educational Accessibility by providing Accommodation Letters to their instructors early in the semester in order to start receiving accommodations. Accommodations will not be made until the Accommodation Letters are provided to instructors each semester.