

COSC 3360-110, 80283, Ethics in Computing

Fall 2022

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

Course Dates: August 22, 2022 – December 9, 2022

This course meets face-to-face Mondays and Wednesdays (11:00 am – 12:15 pm) at Founder's Hall – 308, with supplemental materials made available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor Rahul Dwivedi, PhD

Office 323 H

Phone: NA

Email: rahul.dwivedi@tamuct.edu (*email is the preferred mode of communication*)

Office Hours

Monday 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Wednesday 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Students may also request a virtual meeting at any other appropriate time during weekdays (Monday – Friday) depending upon the availability of the instructor.

Student-instructor interaction

I check my university email many times a day and typically respond within 24 to 48 hours of receiving emails on weekdays. Apart from office hours, email is the preferred mode of communication.

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
 - o [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]

- [Android Phone / Tablet](#)
[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp>]
- 2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
- 3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University [website](#)
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description

The goal of this course is to examine personal and contemporary organizational ethical issues and challenges in the design, development, and use of computing technologies in a global environment. Special emphasis on the philosophical basis for computer ethics, reliability, and safety of computer systems, protecting software and other intellectual property, computer crime and legal issues, and professional codes of ethics (AIS, ACM, IEEE, etc.).

Course Objective or Goal

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

CL01: Demonstrate an understanding of relevant ethical theories, laws, regulations, and policies in the usage of computers in the global environment.

CL02: Identify ethical issues that arise in software development and determine how to address them technically and ethically.

CL03: Explain the ethical responsibility of ensuring software correctness, reliability, and safety.

CL04: Describe the mechanisms that typically exist for a professional to keep up to date.

CL05: Describe the strengths and weaknesses of relevant professional codes as expressions of professionalism and guides to decision-making.

CL06: Analyze a global computing issue, observing the role of professionals and government officials in managing this problem.

CL07: Evaluate the professional codes of ethics from the ACM, the IEEE Computer Society, and other organizations.

Competency Goals Statements (certification or standards)

None

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

[For WI Courses] This is a Writing Instructive (WI) course so writing will be an integral part of my instruction and our interactions. Writing will also be a fundamental way that I measure student mastery of course content. WI means that you will have several opportunities to work on improving your writing skills.

For this course, you will work on individual homework assignments based on analyzing case studies focused on ethical issues at the individual and organizational levels and will write an

individual case study paper due at the end of the course.

Title: Ethics for the Information Age Author: Michael J. Quinn Edition: 8th Publisher: Pearson Education, Inc. Print ISBN: 9780136681595 Copyright year: 2020

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements:

Quizzes: There will be ten quizzes to be completed in the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System. Each quiz (solely based on textbook material) will be worth 5 points and will include multiple-choice questions to be answered in a limited timeframe. Multiple attempts are not allowed, and the score will be displayed as soon as you submit the quiz. The quizzes will be made available on Thursday at noon and will be due by end of Friday. The quizzes must be attempted on the Canvas learning management system and email submits are not acceptable except under unforeseen circumstances and must be discussed/explained to the instructor in advance, if possible.

Individual homework assignments: There will be three individual homework assignments based on analyzing ethical issues and ethical reasoning for a given case study and/or scenario. Each homework assignment will be worth 10 points. Students will get three weeks to work on the homework assignment. Although late submissions are allowed for these homework assignments, 1 point will be deducted for each day the homework assignment is late. The homework assignments must be submitted using the Canvas learning management system and email submits are not acceptable except under unforeseen circumstances and must be discussed/explained to the instructor in advance, if possible.

Individual case study paper (signature assignment): An individual case study paper is due by the end of the semester (i.e., December 9th, 2022). The paper must follow double-spaced APA format with font size 12. In general, students will answer the following four questions: 1) Identify the primary issues prevalent in the case study, 2) Identify any ethical implications, 3) Provide prevention solutions and remedies, and 4) Provide your personal perspective of the case study. More instructions including the structure of the paper will be provided during the second week of the semester. The case study paper is worth 20 points or 20% of the overall course grade. Late submits are not allowed for the case study paper. **The rubric for the individual case study paper is attached at the end of the syllabus.**

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Item	Quantity	Points	Total / Percent
Quizzes	10	5	50
Individual homework assignments	3	10	30
Individual case study paper	1	20	20
Total			100

Quizzes, homework assignments, and case study paper will receive a numeric score (0-100) each. These scores will be converted to points and totaled to ultimately be converted to letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F as shown in the example below:

	Percent earned by Student	Max points	Points to be added to the final grade
Quiz 1	78%	5	3.9
Quiz 2	70%	5	3.5
Quiz 3	72%	5	3.6
Quiz 4	80%	5	4
Quiz 5	84%	5	4.2
Quiz 6	86%	5	4.3
Quiz 7	88%	5	4.4
Quiz 8	77%	5	3.85
Quiz 9	67%	5	3.35
Quiz 10	90%	5	4.5
Individual homework assignment 1	60%	5	3
Individual homework assignment 1	75%	5	3.75
Individual homework assignment 1	90%	10	9
Individual case study paper	70%	20	14
TOTAL		100	69.35

89.5 – 100 = A

79.5 – 89.49999 = B

69.5 – 79.49999 = C

59.5 – 69.49999 = D

Below 59.5 = F

Grades will not be curved (in the above example, the student with 69.35 will receive a C NOT a B).

Posting of Grades

All student grades will be posted on the Canvas Grade Book and students should monitor their grading status through this tool. Grades will be posted within two weeks after the availability date for homework assignments. Grades for the quizzes will be available as soon as the student submits the quiz. Grades for the individual paper will be available before posting the final letter grades during or after the final week of the semester.

Grading Policies

Refer to the late policy for individual homework above. No late submission is allowed for quizzes and an individual case study.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar (Subject to change)

Week	Dates	Content	Readings	Assignments
1	August 22 nd – August 26 th	Course Welcome, Faculty introduction, and overview of course objectives, and expectations. Catalysts for Change	Read the Syllabus in-depth. Chapter 1	
August 24 th – Deadline for add, drop, and late registration for 16-week classes.				
2	August 29 th – September 2 nd	Catalysts for Change	Chapter 1	Homework 1 is available.
September 5 th – Labor Day (University Closed) September 7 th – Deadline to drop 16-week classes with no record (Census)				
3	September 6 th – September 9 th	Introduction to Ethics	Chapter 2	A quiz based on chapter 1 is available and due.
4	September 12 th – September 16 th	Introduction to Ethics	Chapter 2	
5	September 19 th – September 23 rd	Networked Communications	Chapter 3	Homework 1 is due. A quiz based on chapter 2 is available and due.
6	September 26 th – September 30 th	Intellectual Property	Chapter 4	Homework 2 is available. A quiz based on chapter 3 is available and due.
7	October 3 rd – October 7 th	Intellectual Property	Chapter 4	
8	October 10 th – October 14 th	Information Privacy	Chapter 5	A quiz based on chapter 4 is available and due.
9	October 17 th – October 21 st	Privacy and the Government	Chapter 6	Homework 2 is due. A quiz based on

				chapter 5 is available and due.
10	October 24 th – October 28 th	Computer and Network Security	Chapter 7	Homework 3 is available. A quiz based on chapter 6 is available and due.
11	October 31 st – November 4 th	Computer Reliability	Chapter 8	A quiz based on chapter 7 is available and due.
November 11 th – Veteran’s Day (University Closed)				
12	November 7 th – November 10 th	Professional Ethics	Chapter 9	
13	November 14 th – November 18 th	Work and Wealth	Chapter 10	Homework 3 is due. A quiz based on chapter 8 is available and due.
November 24 th – 25 th : Thanksgiving (University Closed)				
14	November 21 st – November 23 rd	Reserve Week.		A quiz based on chapter 9 is available and due.
15	November 28 th – December 2 nd	Reserve Week.		A quiz based on chapter 10 is available and due.
16	December 5 th – December 9 th	Reserve Week.		The individual case study paper is due.
December 9 th – Deadline to withdraw from the university for 16-week classes				

Important University Dates

Refer to important university dates from the current Academic Calendar available at: <https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Microsoft Word (required) for the writing and submission of individual homework assignments and an individual case study paper.

Citation software (required): You must use Microsoft Word plugin for freely available citation and bibliography generation software such as Mendeley <https://www.mendeley.com/> or Zotero <https://www.zotero.org/>. Alternatively, you may use the citation tool that comes with Microsoft Word.

Research requirement (required): You must be proficient in the use of one or more of the following for searching for and downloading research paper articles or industry reports, etc. to be used as a reference during writing and submissions of individual homework assignments and

the case study paper: library resources (<https://tamuct.libguides.com/index>), Google scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>), Google (<https://www.google.com/>), etc.

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university’s programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the student conduct process](#), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](#), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpid=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](#) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website

[<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu.

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit [Tutor Matching Services](https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT) [https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Library & Archives

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956) [https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other

events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index]

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WConline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

OTHER POLICIES

Policies related to absence, grading, etc.

You are responsible for all class material presented during an absence.

- Quizzes, individual homework's, and case study paper must be submitted through Canvas and due on the specified due date/time. No email submissions will be accepted except under unforeseen circumstances.
- Late penalty will be applied to individual homework(s) submitted after due dates. Refer to late submission policy for this item above. Other items (individual case study paper, and quizzes) will have strict hard deadlines.

Plagiarism policy: *Students are strongly advised not to copy and paste material from websites, study guides (such as Chegg, Course Hero, etc.), research articles, industry articles, blog posts or any other online resources. Students must rephrase and properly cite any of the material used in their submits. All your submitted writings will be checked using an automated plagiarism check software already built into Canvas available from the University. Following point deductions will apply to your submitted writings:*

- *More than 30% plagiarized – Not acceptable and students will not earn any points*
- *21% to 30% plagiarized – 70% points deducted with warning to be more careful with future submits*
- *11% to 20% plagiarized – 60% points deducted with warning to be more careful with future submits*
- *0% to 10% plagiarized – Acceptable with warning to be more careful during future submits*

The above policy will be followed along with the standard University policy of Student academic conduct.

My personal statement

- I am almost always available via email and typically respond within 24 hours except on weekends. Student may also request virtual meeting via WebEx or Microsoft Teams, if required.
- I prefer email to phone conversations.
- I reserve the right to modify the course syllabus during the semester for the benefit of the students.
- I reserve the right to supplement materials presented in the text with additional course material that may help the students to understand the topic better.

I reserve the right to modify grading policy rubrics. Any change to grading rubrics will be applied to current and possible future assignments.

Copyright Notice

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Individual Case Study Grading Rubric

Individual Case Study Rubric			
	Levels of Achievement		
Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Does not meet expectations
Quality of Information Presented	4	3	2
	All questions/areas of the prompt are answered in a well-thought-out manner and supported using appropriate research and examples.	All questions/areas of the prompt are answered in a well-thought-out manner, but some areas lack support.	Some questions/areas of the prompt are not addressed in a well-thought-out manner, or most areas lack support.
Format and Tone	4	3	2
	Professional vocabulary, writing style and tone are used consistently throughout the case study. Any sources used are properly referenced/cited in APA 7th Edition format.	Professional vocabulary, writing style and tone are used consistently throughout the case study. Any sources used are referenced/cited but have APA 7th Edition formatting errors.	Several errors exist within professional writing style, tone, and APA 7th Edition citation/referencing formatting.
Word Count	4	3	2
	The case study contains a sufficient word count (1,200 + words).	The case study does not contain a sufficient word count (1,000 - 1,199 words).	The case study does not contain a sufficient word count (less than 1,000 words).
Sources/references	4	3	2
	Seven or more credible sources (peer-review journal articles, scholarly books, authoritative websites).	Less than seven but at least five credible sources (peer review journal articles, scholarly books, authoritative websites).	Less than five credible sources (peer-review journal articles, scholarly books, authoritative websites).
Depth of discussion	4	3	2
	In-depth discussion & elaboration in all sections of the case study.	In-depth discussion & elaboration in most sections of the case study.	In-depth discussion & elaboration in some sections of the case study