

ETHICS IN COMPUTING

CIS 3360-115, 60137/ COSC 3360-115, 60138

SUMMER 2023

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

This is a 100% online course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>]. The course syllabus, schedule, supplemental readings, class announcements, presentations, learning modules, assignments, and other course materials will be posted to Canvas. Course Dates: June 05, 2023 – July 28, 2023

INFORMATION

Instructor: Alex Burnett-Hayes

Phone: 737-444-7333 (Please use for emergencies only.)

Email: alex.burnett-hayes@tamuct.edu (Preferred method of communication.)

Office Hours

I am available to all students on an appointment basis. Please send an email to alex.burnett-hayes@tamuct.edu to schedule an appointment. Meeting options are either via in-person on-campus, WebEx, or telephone. All appointments will be confirmed with an email sent from me to your Warrior email account. When sending an email to me, please utilize only your Warrior account. Emails sent from other providers will not be answered.

Student-Instructor Interaction

I will respond to all student emails within 24 hours of receipt.

WARRIOR SHIELD

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.

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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]
 - o [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp)
[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

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and Description

Examine personal and contemporary organizational ethical issues and challenges in the design, development and the 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 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.

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Relationship Between CLOs and Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

CLOs	PLOs			
	Written Communication	Ethical Reasoning	Computing Solution Design	IT Security Knowledge
CLO1	P	P		
CLO2	P	P		
CLO3	P	P		
CLO4	P	P		
CLO5	P	P		
CLO6	P	P		
CLO7	P	P		

REQUIRED READING AND TEXTBOOK

Title: Ethics for the Information Age

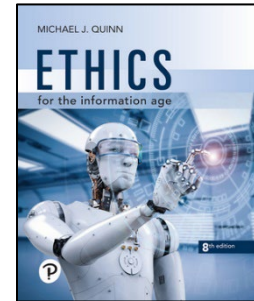
Author: Michael J. Quinn

Edition: 8th

Publisher: Pearson Education, Inc.

Print ISBN: 9780136681595

Copyright year: 2020



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Meet & Greet Discussion Forum: There will be one (1) Meet & Greet Discussion Forum to be completed in the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System. Students must make an initial post introducing themselves to the class (noting it would be nice if you also responded to your classmates). For the Meet & Greet Discussion Forum, please only share what you are comfortable with. The Meet & Greet discussion forum is worth a maximum of fifteen (15) points.

Group Discussion Forums: There will be five (5) group discussion forums to be completed in the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System. Students will be presented with four (4) "What Would You Do?" questions for each week containing a Group Discussion Forum (as it appears on the syllabus). Students will select one (1) of the presented questions and construct one (1) initial post and two (2) reply posts. Complete Group Discussion Forum instructions appear in Canvas. The Group Discussion Forums will be graded according to the Group Discussion Forum grading rubric (as it appears later in this syllabus and in Canvas). Note: The purpose of the group discussion forums is to heighten collective ethical awareness and knowledge (noting there is no wrong answer to any question posed and further we are to respect any stated opinion). Continued conversations outside of the classroom are encouraged. All students are expected to participate in the required group discussion forums, which are worth a maximum of fifteen (15) points each for a maximum total of 75 points. *Note: The group discussion forums may introduce new material (beyond the course textbook) and thus may require students to utilize established critical thinking and research skills.*

Quizzes: There will be six (6) quizzes to be completed in the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System. Each quiz (*solely based on textbook material*) includes 20 multiple-choice questions to be answered in a 55-minute timeframe. Each quiz includes two (2) attempts with the highest score recorded in the grade book. Each quiz is worth a maximum of 15 points each for a maximum total of 90 points.

Group Case Studies: There will be two (2) group case studies (to be completed individually) conducted in a group discussion forum environment to be completed in the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System. Students will be presented with a choice of four (4) case studies for which they must choose one (1). Students will construct one (1) initial post and two (2) reply posts. Students will answer the following four questions (in the initial post): 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. Complete Group Case Study instructions appear in Canvas. The Group Case Studies will be graded according to the Group Case Study grading rubric (as it appears later in this syllabus and in Canvas). Note: The purpose of the group case studies is to further amplify and deepen collective ethical awareness and knowledge (noting there is no wrong answer to any question posed and further we are to respect any stated opinion). Continued conversations outside of the classroom are encouraged. All students are expected to participate in the required group case studies, which are worth a maximum of thirty (30) points each for a maximum total of 60 points. *Note: The group case studies may introduce new material (beyond the course textbook) and thus may require students to utilize established critical thinking and research skills.*

Individual Case Study: (Signature Assignment) There will be one (1) individual case study to be completed in the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System. Students will be presented with a choice of twenty (20) case studies for which they must choose one (1) noting the choice cannot be the same as any priorly performed/completed group case study. 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. Complete Individual Case Study instructions appear in Canvas. Note: The Individual Case Study opens approximately two (2) weeks prior to the stated syllabus deadline. The individual case study will be graded using the Individual Case Study Grading Rubric (as found later in this syllabus and as it appears in Canvas). Each one-attempt case study is worth a maximum of 60 points each for a maximum total of 60 points. *Note: The individual case study may introduce new material (beyond the course textbook) and thus may require students to utilize established critical thinking and research skills.*

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Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Required Activity		Quantity	Points	Total
Meet & Greet Discussion Forum	(5%)	1	15	15
Group Discussion Forums	(25%)	5	15	75
Quizzes	(30%)	6	15	90
Group Case Studies	(20%)	2	30	60
Individual Case Study	(20%)	1	60	60
Total				300

Point Range	Letter Grade
300 - 270	A
269 - 240	B
239 - 210	C
209 - 180	D
179 - 0	F

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted to the Canvas grade book as assignments are graded. This will typically be done once all students have submitted the assignment.

Grading Policies

All assignments must be submitted before the posted deadline. No late assignments will be accepted.

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COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Learning Materials	Deliverables
1	06/05 - 06/11	Syllabus Chapter 1 Textbook Chapter 1 PPTs/Lecture Materials Chapter 2 Textbook Chapter 2 PPTs/Lecture Materials	Meet & Greet Discussion Forum Quiz #1 Group Discussion Forum #1
2	06/12 - 06/18	Chapter 3 Textbook Chapter 3 PPTs/Lecture Materials	Quiz #2 Group Discussion Forum #2
3	06/19 - 06/25	Chapter 4 Textbook Chapter 4 PPTs/Lecture Materials	Group Case Study #1
4	06/26 - 07/02	Chapter 5 Textbook Chapter 5 PPTs/Lecture Materials	Quiz #3 Group Discussion Forum #3
5	07/03 - 07/09	Chapter 6 Textbook Chapter 6 PPTs/Lecture Materials	Quiz #4 Group Discussion Forum #4
6	07/10 - 07/16	Chapter 7 Textbook Chapter 7 PPTs/Lecture Materials	Group Case Study #2
7	07/17 - 07/23	Chapter 8 Textbook Chapter 8 PPTs/Lecture Materials	Quiz #5 Group Discussion Forum #5
8	07/24 - 07/28	Chapter 9 Textbook Chapter 9 PPTs/Lecture Materials Chapter 10 Textbook Chapter 10 PPTs/Lecture Materials	Quiz #6 Individual Case Study #1

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Important University Dates

Please see the attached link for the A&M-Central Texas Academic Calendars, which track important deadlines and dates for the school year and semesters: <https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

This course will use Microsoft Office 365 software. As a University student, you can download the software at no cost. Please access this University link for download instructions: <https://tamuct.onecampus.com/task/all/office365-software>

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.**

Log on 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 its custom plug-in.

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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

Drop Policy

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

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%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 a 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.

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 about 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 report](#) [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

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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](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant 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) [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](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) 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.

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University Writing Center

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2022 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. 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. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. 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 and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library 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 workspaces, 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].

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

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

OTHER POLICIES

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus during the semester for the benefit of the students.

The instructor reserves the right to supplement materials presented in the text with additional course material that may help the students better understand a topic(s).

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.

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GROUP CASE STUDY GRADING RUBRIC

Group Case Study Grading Rubric			
	Levels of Achievement		
Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Quality of Information Presented (Initial Post)	15 Points	7.5 Points	3.75 Points
	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.
Reply Posts	7 Points	3.5 Points	1.75 Point
	A minimum of two reply posts actively establishes a positive learning environment and contributes new information to the discussion exhibiting a high-level understanding of the materials.	One reply post (out of a minimum of two reply posts) actively establishes a positive learning environment, or one reply post contributes new information to the discussion exhibiting a high-level understanding of the materials.	Reply posts (out of a minimum of two reply posts) do not actively establish a positive learning environment or do not contribute new information to the discussion.
Format and Tone (Initial and Reply Posts)	2 Points	1 Points	0.50 Point
	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 (Initial and Reply Posts)	2 Points	1 Points	0.50 Points
	The case study contains a sufficient word count (600 + words - initial post & 300 + word - each reply post).	The case study does not contain a sufficient word count (500 - 599 words - initial post & 200 - 299 words - each reply post).	The case study does not contain a sufficient word count (less than 500 words - initial post & less than 200 words for either of the 2 reply posts).

Sources (Initial Post)	2 Points	1 Points	0.50 Points
	Three or more credible sources (peer-review journal articles, scholarly books, authoritative websites).	Less than three but at least two credible sources (peer-review journal articles, scholarly books, authoritative websites).	Less than two credible sources (peer-review journal articles, scholarly books, authoritative websites).
Sources (Reply Posts)	2 Points	1 Points	0.50 Points
	Two or more credible sources per reply post (peer-review journal articles, scholarly books, authoritative websites).	Less than two but at least one credible source per reply post (peer-review journal articles, scholarly books, authoritative websites).	Less than one credible source per reply post (peer-review journal articles, scholarly books, authoritative websites).

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INDIVIDUAL CASE STUDY GRADING RUBRIC

Individual Case Study Grading Rubric			
	Levels of Achievement		
Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Quality of Information Presented	24 Points	12 Points	6 Points
	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	3 Points	1.5 Points	0.75 Points
	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	3 Points	1.5 Points	0.75 Points
	The case study contains a sufficient word count (1,200 + words).	The case study does not contain a sufficient word count (1,100 - 1,199 words).	The case study does not contain a sufficient word count (less than 1,100 words).
Sources	6 Points	3 Points	1.5 Points
	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	24 Points	12 Points	6 Points
	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.

GROUP DISCUSSION FORUM GRADING RUBRIC

Group Discussion Forum Grading Rubric			
	Levels of Achievement		
Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Spelling, Writing Mechanics, and Referencing (Initial and Reply posts)	2 Points	1 Points	0 Points
	Submits posts that contain no more than two total errors in sentence structure/grammar/spelling errors, and the student uses APA 7th Edition in-text citations and end references for all information sources.	Submits posts that contain more than two total errors in sentence structure/grammar/spelling errors or student cites some information sources using APA 7th Edition in-text citations and end references.	Submitted posts are written poorly with numerous sentence structure/grammar/spelling errors, or the student does not use APA 7th Edition in-text citations and end references to cite most or all of the information sources.
Timeliness (Initial and Reply posts)	1 Points	0.5 Points	0 Points
	The student successfully posted their initial post 24 hours (Saturday by 11:55 p.m. CST) before the stated due date, affording classmates time to read and respond accordingly, and posted a minimum of two reply posts by the stated deadline (Sunday by 11:55 p.m. CST).	The student successfully submitted their initial post and a minimum of two reply posts by the stated due date (Sunday by 11:55 p.m. CST).	The student did not successfully submit their initial post or a minimum of two reply posts by the stated due date (Sunday by 11:55 p.m. CST).
Reply Posts	4 Points	2 Points	0 Points
	A minimum of two reply posts actively establishes a positive learning environment and contributes new information to the discussion exhibiting a high-level understanding of the materials.	One reply post (out of a minimum of two reply posts) actively establishes a positive learning environment, or one reply post contributes new information to the discussion exhibiting a high-level understanding of the materials.	Reply posts (out of a minimum of two reply posts) do not actively establish a positive learning environment or do not contribute new information to the discussion.
Initial Post	8 Points	4 Points	0 Points
	The initial post displays an excellent, well-researched understanding of the materials and underlying concepts, including the correct use of terminology. The initial post incorporates at least one outside resource/relevant research (Internet or Journal article) to support important points.	The initial post repeats and summarizes basic, correct information, or the initial post does not incorporate at least one outside resource/relevant research source (Internet or Journal article) to support important points.	The initial post is superficial without supporting statements, and the initial post does not incorporate at least one outside resource/relevant research (Internet or Journal article) to reinforce important points.