CSC 301
Fall **2016**

Department of Computer Science

Course	Computers and Society
Course #	CSC 301; Class No.: `40862`, 7:00 – 8:15 PM, T TH in SBS E 122
Instructor	W. Peter Blankenship
Phone	(310) 812-7981
Email	wpbcsc301@gmail.com
Office Hours	8:15 - 8:45 PM T TH in NSM E-115; by appointment
Prerequisites	Grade of C, or better, in CSC121, or CSC 111 or CIS 270
Textbook	**A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computers and the Internet** Author: Baase, Sara Publisher: Pearson, Prentice Hall **ISBN-13:** 978-0132492676, Copyright 2012; 4th Edition **ISBN-10:** 0132492679 Also: The United States Constitution

Evaluation Procedures and Grading System	`2 Essays (term papers)` `10%`
	`2 Oral Presentations` `20%`
	`Midterm` `20%`
	`Attendance/Class Participation` `15%`
	`Final` `35%`

Attendance Policy	Attendance for lectures is strongly encouraged as each student is responsible for material covered in class and class participation is noted and can "push one over the top." Finally, please note that there will not be any make up assignments, or tests, and **each student is required to take the final on Tuesday, December 13 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, PST, 2016; failure to take the final will result in a grade of F for the course.** **Last Day to withdraw w/o serious accident/illness: Thursday, November 10, 2016**
Class web site	http://wpbcsc301.weebly.com Acrobat reader is required for some pages; download free from: http://www.adobe.com

Course Overview

Study of the ethical, legal, psychological, economic, political, societal, and theoretical implications and limitations of the uses of digital computers.

Course Outline

Topics covered in this course (not necessarily in this order) include the following:

Societal context of computing
- Introduction to the societal implications of computing

Methods and tools of analysis
- Identifying and evaluating ethical choices
- Understanding the societal context of design

Professional and ethical responsibilities
- Community values and the laws by which we live
- The nature of professionalism
- Maintaining awareness of consequences
- Ethical dissent and whistle-blowing
- Codes of ethics, conduct, and practice (IEEE, ACM, SE, AITP, and so forth)

Risks and liabilities of computer-based systems
- Implications of software complexity
- Risk assessment and management

Intellectual property
- Foundations of intellectual property
- Copyrights, patents, and trade secrets

Privacy and civil liberties
- Ethical and legal basis for privacy protection
- Privacy implications of massive database systems
- Freedom of expression in cyberspace

Computer crime
- "Cracking" ("hacking") and its effects

Economic issues in computing
- Monopolies and their economic implications

In addition, readings from the text will be assigned throughout the semester.

ADA Statement

Students with disabilities, who believe they may need an academic adjustment in this class, are encouraged to contact the instructor as soon as possible to better ensure receipt of timely adjustments.

Academic Integrity

Each student must do his/her own work; plagiarism and cheating (e.g. stealing or copying the work of others and turning it in as your own) will not be permitted, and will result in at least a zero for the assignment/test and possibly an F for the course.

If you are having difficulty, ***PLEASE*** come and see me after class, or during office hours, for help.