

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	2 Essays (term papers)	10%
Procedures	2 Oral Presentations	20%
and Grading	Midterm	20%
System	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.