



蘇州大學
Soochow University

CS 117 Case Studies of Computing and Society

Summer 2023

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 55 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an advanced course that delves into the exploration of case studies at the intersection of computing and society. It examines real-world scenarios, ethical dilemmas, and societal implications arising from computing technologies. Through the analysis of case studies, discussions, readings, and projects, students will develop a deeper understanding of the complex ethical, social, and cultural dimensions of computing, while honing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate case studies illustrating the ethical, social, and cultural aspects of computing and society
2. Examine the impact of computing technologies on various societal domains, including but not limited to privacy, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and social media
3. Understand the complexities of ethical decision-making in computing, including issues related to bias, fairness, accountability, and transparency
4. Explore the legal and regulatory frameworks governing computing and technology use
5. Foster critical thinking, research, and communication skills through case analysis, discussions, and presentations

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING



Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Case Analysis Reports	20 Points
Written Assignment 1	20 Points
Written Assignment 2	20 Points
Final Exam	40 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Ethics for the Information Age, by Michael J. Quinn, 2020, Pearson.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Privacy and Surveillance Topic 2: <i>Case studies</i> : Data Privacy Breaches, Surveillance Technologies, and their Societal Impact Topic 3: Legal and Ethical Considerations in Data Collection and Surveillance Practices Topic 4: Ethical Implications of Artificial Intelligence Assessments: Case Analysis Report#1



Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: <i>Case studies:</i> Algorithmic Bias, Fairness, and Accountability in AI Systems Topic 6: Social Media and Online Platforms Topic 7: <i>Case studies:</i> Influence of Social Media Platforms on Elections, Public Discourse, and Online Communities Topic 8: Cybersecurity and Hacking Assessments: Case Analysis Report#2</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: <i>Case Studies:</i> Cybersecurity Breaches, Hacking Incidents, and their Consequences Topic 10: Intellectual Property and Copyright Topic 11: <i>Case Studies:</i> Intellectual property infringement, digital piracy, and copyright challenges in the digital age Topic 12: Emerging Technologies and Societal Impact Assessments: Written Assignment#1</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: <i>Case Studies:</i> Emerging technologies such as blockchain, internet of things (IoT), and autonomous systems Topic 14: <i>Case Studies:</i> Computing and Culture Topic 15: Ethical considerations in promoting inclusivity, diversity, and cultural sensitivity in technology design Topic 16: Ethical Implications of Big Data Assessments: Written Assignment#2</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: <i>Case Studies:</i> Ethical challenges and opportunities of big data collection and analysis Topic 18: Technology and Social Impact Topic 19: <i>Case Studies:</i> Social impact of technology, including social media addiction, digital distractions, and mental health implications Topic 20: Future Perspectives: Ethical Challenges and Opportunities Assessments: Final Exam</p>

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.



Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors



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and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.