CS 290 / 391
Social, Ethical and Professional Issues in Computer Science

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Office/Hours: Eng A407 / Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday 10 – 12, 1 – 3 or by appointment
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Course Objective:
♦ Students will demonstrate an understanding of the critical social issues in the computing field.
♦ Students will be able to discuss their ethical responsibilities as computer professionals.
♦ Students will have an appreciation for what a professional organization can offer.
♦ Students will be able to write technical report to show their writing and research capabilities.
♦ Students will demonstrate their oral communication skills by presenting a report on their area of research.

Course Policies:
Guest speakers and reading assignments will set the stage for the class discussions regarding various issues and aspects in information technology including technical writing, oral presentation and ethics. Students are expected to participate in discussions of the presented materials and offer critical analysis of the reading assignments. A midterm exam, a technical report, a presentation, and a resume will be assigned during the course of the semester.

Required Text:
There is no required text. Reading materials on the various topics of the course will be posted on-line. The students are expected to visit the site on a weekly basis and read the materials according to the reading schedule.

Assignments:
There will be a midterm exam over the ethical theories discussed, a technical report, a powerpoint presentation on a topic in technology and a resume will be assigned over the course of the semester. The take home exam will be a on your general understanding of the ethical theories. The technical paper requires you that you propose and submit an outline of a topic in computer science that particularly interests you and you like to explore. The report is a research report in that it requires investigation into a research question in the field. Your presentation will be on a mutually agreed topic in Information Technology. Your resume will be critiqued and you must submit a revised version. You are expected to attend all the lectures and review the presentations available on D2L and be prepared to discuss the topics in class.

Grading:
Term paper, Proposal 20, Paper 30 90% of 200 or above A
Mid-term exam 50 points 80% B
Presentation 30 points 70% C
Resume 30 points 60% D
Class participation 40 points

Two in-excused absenteeism will result in one grade drop.