Computer Science
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

CSC 300: Computer and Society (Fall 2021)

LEC0101: Wednesday 3-5 pm (Lecture)
LEC5101: Wednesday 6-8 pm (Lecture)
Zoom Link for Lectures: https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/86950460731

Tutorial 1: Wednesdays 5-6 pm
Tutorial 2: Wednesday 8-9 pm
Zoom Link for Tutorials: (will be shared by your TAs)

Instructor

Prof. Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed
Assistant Professor
Department of Computer Science
The University of Toronto, ON, CA

Email: csc300-2021-09@cs.toronto.edu
Ph: +1 647 220 3482
web: https://www.ishtiaque.net/

Overview

'Computer and Society' introduces a wide range of interconnections between computers and society. In this course, students will learn the basic values that drive today's computer industry and how those often strengthen or differ from many moral values held by different communities in our world. This course will introduce the students to various theories from philosophy and social sciences to develop a deep understanding of the ethical tensions around the relationship between computers and society. This class is designed to help the students gain this knowledge along with strengthening their writing, debating, and designing capabilities to make them the next-generation computer scientists who are ethical, responsible, and caring.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course students should be able to:
- Define and explain key concepts & terms in the course (ethics, privacy, equity, etc.).
- Develop a critical perspective on the recent evolution of computer and software technology and its impact on society.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the ethical tensions around emerging computing practices.
- Critically think and develop methods to produce ethical applications of computing technologies.
- Develop writing skills that are necessary to articulate an argument in a scholarly discussion.

Recommended Texts

- Code 2.0, by Lawrence Lessig [Download]
- The Age of Surveillance Capitalism, Shoshana Zuboff
- Algorithms of Oppression, Safiya Noble

[Please note that all the required reading materials will be provided through Quercus. These are optional reading suggestions]

Evaluation Schemes

Topic	Percentage	Description
Reading Responses	48%	After each module, the students are required to submit an assignment based on that module. There are four modules in this course. So, the students will be submitting four assignments. ● There will be 4 assignments in total ● Each response will be graded on a scale from 1 to 12 ● Detailed rubrics will be provided with the questions. ● The grade of each week's reading response is expected to be published over Quercus within 10 days from the submission deadline. There might be a delay for unavoidable circumstances.
Tutorial Participation	18%	Students will be graded based on their performance in the Tutorials. The tutorials will include activities that are directly related to the class lecture (hence, attending the class lectures is important). While different tutorials will have different activities, the evaluation will be based on the student's understanding of the subject matter and participation in the tutorial. ● There will be 11 tutorials in total ● Each tutorial will be graded in scale from 1 to 2 ● The best 9 grades will be counted for the final grading ● Detailed rubrics will be provided during the tutorial by the TAs ● The grade of each tutorial is expected to be published over Quercus within 5 days of the tutorial. There might be a delay for unavoidable circumstances.
Final Assessment	34%	○ Timed online tests to be completed within a fixed time window ○ Students may start the test any time within a 12-hour window. Once they start writing they have 2 hours to complete. ○ The Test will take place on Quercus ○ The details of the Final Assessment questions and grading rubrics will be provided in the class at least 1 month before the exam.

Detailed Deadlines:

Date	Topic	Comment
	Module 1: Basic Concepts	
Sep 15	Introduction	No Tutorial
Sept 22	Theories of Ethics	Tutorial 1
Sept 29	Politics of Technology	Tutorial 2
	Assignment 1 due: Oct 4, 11:59 pm	
	Module 2: Data, Privacy, and Surveillance	
Oct 6	Politics of Data	Tutorial 3
Oct 13	Privacy	Tutorial 4
Oct 20	Surveillance	Tutorial 5
	Assignment 2 due: Oct 25, 11:59 pm	
	Module 3: Behind the Tech	
Oct 27	Extraction, Emissions, and Computing	Tutorial 6
Nov 3	Repair, Recycle, and Electronic Waste	Tutorial 7
Nov 10	--BREAK--	
Nov 17	Copyright and Intellectual Properties	Tutorial 8
	Assignment 3 due: Nov 22, 11:59 pm	
	Module 4: Computing, Diversity, and Equity	
Nov 24	Gender, Sexuality, and Computing	Tutorial 9
Dec 1	Race, intersectionality, and computing	Tutorial 10
Dec 8	Computing and International Development	Tutorial 11
	Assignment 4 due: Dec 9, 11:59 pm	

* The students are expected to receive 34% of their grade before Nov1, 2021

Teaching Assistants:

Name	Email
Dory Abelman	dor.abelman@mail.utoronto.ca
Micaela Consens	micaela.consens@mail.utoronto.ca
Aarjav Chauhan	aarjav.chauhan@mail.utoronto.ca
Sindhu Gowda	sindhu.gowda@mail.utoronto.ca
Mohammad Rashidujjaman Rifat	rifat@cs.toronto.edu
Yasaman Rohanifar	yasaman.rohanifar@mail.utoronto.ca
Vlada Gorchkova	vladislava.gorchkova@mail.utoronto.ca
Jai Aggarwal	jai@cs.toronto.edu

TA Office Hours: (Details will be posted on Quercus)

All office hours are virtual and will take place on Zoom.

Important:
Please note that the teaching team is trying their best to accommodate all the requests from all our students in this large class. We highly encourage our students to get most of their questions asked on Quercus and get the answers from there by us and other students.
- If you have more questions that you want to get answers to privately, please shoot your email to your TA and ask those questions. Please start the title of your email [CSC300] to ask the questions.
- If that also does not work, and you really need to meet the teaching team, only then book a slot in the office hour by sending your TA an email. Please start the title of your email [CSC300: OH] and send the email at least 24 hours before the office hour.

Monday 11 am: w/ TA
Thursday 4 pm: w/ TA

If your problem cannot be solved by the TAs, only then send an email to Prof. Ahmed (ishtiaque@cs.toronto.edu). Please start the title of your email [CSC300] to ask the questions.
- To book a meeting with Prof. Ahmed, please send an email to csc300-2020-09@cs.toronto.edu with the subject starting with [CSC300: OH] **at least 24 hours before the office hour**. If you get a confirmation email in reply, exact time, and link, only then the meeting will happen.

- OH of Prof. Ahmed: Friday 1-2pm

Due to the abnormal nature of this term, we are maintaining a strict schedule and priority. So, please respect the time and effort of the teaching team. Also, it is not unlikely that you may not get a meeting spot in the Office Hour. If such cases, please send another email

Slides and Recording:

- Slides will be shared over Quercus before the lecture.
- The class will be recorded and the recorded video will be uploaded to Quercus. If any student has any reservations regarding recording, please contact me.

Assignments:

- 8.5"×11" or A4 paper size.
- Times New Roman font.
- 11-point font size.
- Single-spaced lines of text
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- Paragraph indentation of 0.5 inches.
- References will NOT be counted toward the page or word limit. Reference format: ACM
- Titles, Subtitles, Images, etc. won't be counted toward the word limit.
- You can go over the word limit, but no more than 10% of the word limit. For example, if the word limit is 500, you can use a maximum of 550 words and no more than that. You will be penalized for using more text.

Academic Integrity:

We expect that all students will abide by the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit: https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/ To learn more about Academic Misconduct, visit: https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity/academic-misconduct.

Ouriginal:

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the *Ouriginal* software for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the software reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the *Ouriginal* service are described on the FAS website.

Penalty for Late Submissions

Late submissions will be graded according to the following rules

- 20% reduction if submitted within 24 hours after the deadline.
- 50% reduction if submitted within 24-48 hours after the deadline.
- No submission after 48 hours after the deadline will be accepted.

However, if a student misses a deadline for an unavoidable reason, physical emergency, or other unexpected incidents of significant magnitude, they can submit their assignment at a later date. In such cases, you have to send an email to TA, Mohammad Rifat Rashidujjaman (rifat@cs.toronto.edu) with necessary documents and explanations.

Please note that there is no deadline for publishing the grades of late submissions. This depends on the availability of the teaching team.

Re-grading:

Errors in marking must be brought to the attention of the instructors using the course email address within 1 week (7 days including weekends, holidays, etc.) of the coursework being returned. All the regrading requests should be made to TA, Aarjav Chauhan (aarjav.chauhan@mail.utoronto.ca)

Discussions:

Students are encouraged to use Quercus to discuss course-related topics with the teaching team and their classmates. Students can ask questions there and other students are encouraged to answer those questions if they can. The TAs will also join the discussion where and when needed.

Sickness and Accessibility:

This course is guided by the University of Toronto's goal to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. In creating such a community, the University aims to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Please find details here: https://www.utoronto.ca/accessibility

If you need to talk about any accessibility issue, please contact TA Yasaman Rohanifar (yasaman.rohanifar@mail.utoronto.ca)

Additional resources for accessibility services:
- https://clockwork.studentlife.utoronto.ca/custom/misc/home.aspx
- https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/

Additional Resources

1. For improving your writing
   - [Writing at the University of Toronto](#)
   - [Dartmouth Institute of Writing and Rhetoric](#)
2. To know more about Ethics:
   - [UofT Center for Ethics](#)
3. [Recognized Study Groups (RSG)](#) are voluntary, peer-led study groups of 3 – 6 students enrolled in the same course. They're available for all A&S courses and are now fully online. In addition to supporting students' study habits and academic success, RSGs also encourage student participants to be socially connected with their peers. Last year, over 2,000 A&S students participated in RSGs for courses spanning all streams and class sizes.
4. [Meet to Complete](#) are online drop-in study sessions held exclusively for A&S undergrads. Offered multiple times per business day and led by trained A&S student-staff, these study sessions help students to stay motivated and productive by offering daily goal-setting and the opportunity to study alongside their A&S peers.
5. UofT Library: https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/
6. Mental Healthcare: http://mentalhealth.utoronto.ca/