

CSC300: Computers and Society (Spring 2022)

Course 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

Instructors

For the M10-12 section:	Khai Truong Professor Department of Computer Science University of Toronto	Lecture zoom link: https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/88392835984 Email: csc300-instructors@cs.toronto.edu Phone: +1 (416) 978-4761 Web: http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~khai
For the M18-20 section:	Mohammad Rifat Ph.D. Candidate Department of Computer Science University of Toronto	Lecture zoom link: https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/82959355039 Email: csc300-instructors@cs.toronto.edu Phone: +1 (437) 774-2599 Web: http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~rifat

Teaching Assistants

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Office Hours

TA office hours	Tuesday, 4pm-5pm Friday, 9am-10am	https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/89575754150
Instructor office hours	Wednesday 2pm-3pm (Khai) Friday 10am-11am (Rifat)	https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/82039990309

Please note this is a large class, so TAs & instructors may not be able to speak individually with everyone during office hours.

- We highly encourage students to ask most of their questions on Quercus and to get the answers from us and other students there—everyone with similar questions can benefit from this
- If you have questions that you want to ask privately, then please email your TA those questions
- If both of the above do not work and you really need to meet the teaching team, only then use Calendly (<https://calendly.com/csc300-tas/csc300-ta-office-hour>) to book a slot at least 24 hours before the TA office hours.
- If your problem cannot be solved by the TAs, only then send an email to the instructors (csc300-instructors@cs.toronto.edu), with [CSC300] as the title, to ask your questions
- If you need to talk with the instructors directly, then use Calendly (<https://calendly.com/csc300-instructors/instructor-office-hour>) to book a slot at least 24 hours before the instructor office hours.
- If you book an office hour meeting 24 hours in advance, you will get a confirmation email in reply with the exact time of the appointment. 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 & your peers. If you do not get a confirmation email (e.g., because you did not book a slot at least 24 hours before the office hours), you may wait in the waiting room for the office hour. Students without appointments will be placed on a queue, and the TAs and/or instructors may speak with you only after they have spoken with those with appointments and if time permits. It is also possible that you are not able to book a meeting spot when you look at Calendly (e.g., because an office hour is fully booked). In such cases, please try another date. If none are available in the future, send an email to us (csc300-instructors@cs.toronto.edu).

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
	Lecture 1: Introduction (LECo101)	10am to 12pm
Mon Jan 10, 2022	Lecture 1: Introduction (LEC2501)	6pm to 8pm
	Lecture 1: Introduction (LEC5101)	6pm to 8pm
	Lecture 2: Ethics & Ethical Reasoning (LECo101)	10am to 12pm
Mon Jan 17, 2022	Lecture 2: Ethics & Ethical Reasoning (LEC2501)	6pm to 8pm
	Lecture 2: Ethics & Ethical Reasoning (LEC5101)	6pm to 8pm
	Tutorial 1 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
Tue Jan 18, 2022	Tutorial 1 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 1 (LECo101)	due by 11am
Thu Jan 20, 2022	Lecture 3: Politics of Technology (LECo101)	10am to 12pm
	Lecture 3: Politics of Technology (LEC2501)	6pm to 8pm
Mon Jan 24, 2022	Lecture 3: Politics of Technology (LEC5101)	6pm to 8pm
	Tutorial 2 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
Tue Jan 25, 2022	Tutorial 2 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Jan 27, 2022	Tutorial 2 (LECo101)	due by 11am
Sun Jan 30, 2022	Assignment 1	due by 11:59pm
	Lecture 4: Politics of Data (LECo101)	10am to 12pm
Mon Jan 31, 2022	Lecture 4: Politics of Data (LEC2501)	6pm to 8pm
	Lecture 4: Politics of Data (LEC5101)	6pm to 8pm
Tue Feb 1, 2022	Tutorial 3 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 3 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
Thu Feb 3, 2022	Tutorial 3 (LECo101)	due by 11am
	Lecture 5: Privacy Theory (LECo101)	10am to 12pm
Mon Feb 7, 2022	Lecture 5: Privacy Theory (LEC2501)	6pm to 8pm
	Lecture 5: Privacy Theory (LEC5101)	6pm to 8pm
Tue Feb 8, 2022	Tutorial 4 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 4 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
Thu Feb 10, 2022	Tutorial 4	due by 11am

Date	Details	Due
	(LECo101)	
	Lecture 6: Surveillance (LECo101)	10am to 12pm
Mon Feb 14, 2022	Lecture 6: Surveillance (LEC2501)	6pm to 8pm
	Lecture 6: Surveillance (LEC5101)	6pm to 8pm
Tue Feb 15, 2022	Tutorial 5 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 5 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
Thu Feb 17, 2022	Tutorial 5 (LECo101)	due by 11am
Sun Feb 20, 2022	Assignment 2	due by 11:59pm
	Lecture 7: Extraction, Emission, and Computing (LECo101)	10am to 12pm
Mon Feb 28, 2022	Lecture 7: Extraction, Emission, and Computing (LEC2501)	6pm to 8pm
	Lecture 7: Extraction, Emission, and Computing (LEC5101)	6pm to 8pm
Tue Mar 1, 2022	Tutorial 6 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 6 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Mar 3, 2022	Tutorial 6 (LECo101)	due by 11am
	Lecture 8: Repair, Recycle, and Electronic Waste (LECo101)	10am to 12pm
Mon Mar 7, 2022	Lecture 8: Repair, Recycle, and Electronic Waste (LEC2501)	6pm to 8pm
	Lecture 8: Repair, Recycle, and Electronic Waste (LEC5101)	6pm to 8pm
Tue Mar 8, 2022	Tutorial 7 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 7 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
Thu Mar 10, 2022	Tutorial 7 (LECo101)	due by 11am
	Lecture 9: Copyright & Intellectual Property (LECo101)	12pm to 2pm
Mon Mar 14, 2022	Lecture 9: Copyright & Intellectual Property (LEC2501)	8pm to 10pm
	Lecture 9: Copyright & Intellectual Property (LEC5101)	8pm to 10pm
Tue Mar 15, 2022	Tutorial 8 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 8 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
Thu Mar 17, 2022	Tutorial 8	due by 11am

Date	Details	Due
	(LECo101)	
Sun Mar 20, 2022	Assignment 3	due by 11:59pm
	Lecture 10: Gender & Computing (LECo101)	12pm to 2pm
Mon Mar 21, 2022	Lecture 10: Gender & Computing (LEC2501)	8pm to 10pm
	Lecture 10: Gender & Computing (LEC5101)	8pm to 10pm
Tue Mar 22, 2022	Tutorial 9 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 9 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
Thu Mar 24, 2022	Tutorial 9 (LECo101)	due by 11am
	Lecture 11: Race & Computing (LECo101)	12pm to 2pm
Mon Mar 28, 2022	Lecture 11: Race & Computing (LEC2501)	8pm to 10pm
	Lecture 11: Race & Computing (LEC5101)	8pm to 10pm
Tue Mar 29, 2022	Tutorial 10 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 10 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
Thu Mar 31, 2022	Tutorial 10 (LECo101)	due by 11am

Date	Details	Due
Sun Apr 3, 2022	Assignment 4	due by 11:59pm
	Lecture 12: Computing & International Development (LECo101)	12pm to 2pm
Mon Apr 4, 2022	Lecture 12: Computing & International Development (LEC2501)	8pm to 10pm
	Lecture 12: Computing & International Development (LEC5101)	8pm to 10pm
Tue Apr 5, 2022	Tutorial 11 (LEC2501)	due by 9pm
	Tutorial 11 (LEC5101)	due by 9pm
Thu Apr 7, 2022	Tutorial 11 (LECo101)	due by 11am
	Final Exam (Date: TBD)	

Grading Scheme

<u>Component</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Description</u>
Tutorial participation	18%	<p>Students will be graded based on your understanding of the subject matter and participation in the tutorial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed rubrics will be provided during the tutorial by the TAs • Marks for each tutorial will be released on Quercus about 5 days after the tutorial, although there might be a delay due to unavoidable circumstances <p>There will be 11 tutorials in total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each participated tutorial will be marked on a scale from 1 to 2 • Your lowest 2 tutorial marks will be dropped towards your final grade calculation
Written assignments	48%	<p>After each of the 4 modules, the students are required to complete & submit a written assignment based on that module.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed rubrics will be provided with the questions. • The grade of each written assignment is expected to be published over Quercus within 10 days from the submission deadline, although there might be a delay due to unavoidable circumstances. There might be a delay for unavoidable circumstances. <p>There will be 4 assignments in total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each completed & submitted response will be graded on a scale from 1 to 12
Final exam	34%	<p>A timed online test will take place on Quercus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The details of the Final Exam questions and grading rubrics will be provided in the class at least 1 month before the exam.

		<p>The timed online tests must be completed within a fixed time window</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may start the test any time within that window. • Once they start writing they have 2 hours to complete.
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Tutorial participation: Tutorial participation is *mandatory*. Students must attend the tutorial sections you are assigned to. If you have an unavoidable circumstance that requires you to attend a different tutorial hour any week, send an email with an explanation along with proper documentation both TAs by the prior Friday 10AM to that week (*i.e.*, 1 business day before the M tutorials). If you have an unavoidable circumstance that requires your tutorial section to be *changed permanently*, send an email with an explanation along with proper documentation to TA Dory Abelman for consideration.

Written assignments: The deadline for submitting written assignments is 11:59PM of the due date. The assignment must be submitted through Quercus in PDF. The submission should be around 1000 words. Titles, subtitles, images, references, etc. will not count towards word limit. The assignments should be written following this format:

- 8.5" x 11" or Letter paper size
- Times New Roman, 11 point, regular font
- Single-spaced lines of text
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- Paragraph indentation of 0.5 inches
- References should be in APA format

Course Policies

Late enrollment: Assignment due dates apply for all students, regardless of when they enroll in the course. No tutorials will be reheld and therefore no missing tutorial participation marks will be made up later. Your two lowest tutorial participation marks from the point you enrolled in the course will still be dropped and the remaining marks will get pro-rated.

Late assignments: All assignments are to be submitted by 11:59PM on the due date. On-time submissions are graded as normal. Late submissions will incur a penalty:

- Submissions 0 < 24 hours late will incur a 20% penalty.
- Submissions 24 < 48 hours late will incur a 50% penalty.
- Submissions > 48 hours late will not be accepted and will earn a mark of 0 points.

If a student misses a deadline for **unavoidable reasons, physical emergencies**, or other **unexpected incidents of significant magnitude**, you must send an email to TA Aarjav Chauhan with necessary documents and explanations. If the cause is accepted, you will be given a later deadline to submit your work.

The grading of late submissions depends on the availability of the teaching team—there is no deadline for publishing the grades of a late submission.

Re-marking: Students requesting a re-marking of an assignment must submit detailed reasons in writing to TA Aarjav Chauhan within 2 weeks (14 days, including weekends, holidays, etc.) after receiving the grade. The request must include the written reasons as to why the students believe the work was incorrectly marked. Note: adjustments in marks will be rare and could equally result in a lowering or raising of the mark. If a re-evaluation is completed by the instructors, the student must accept the resulting mark as the new mark, whether it goes up or down or remains the same. When appealing a re-evaluation decision, the student accepts this condition.

Writing quality: Structure and organization, spelling, grammar, word usage, and document appearance of your written work must be completed at a satisfactory university-level. If assignments are not in satisfactory university-level English prose, they will be returned for rewriting.

Code of behaviour: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner—this entails showing up for classes and exams at the appointed time, and to participate in tutorial. Students are expected to do their own work at all times and to follow the university's Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including cases of suspected plagiarism and cheating, will result in direct reporting to the department and upwards. Disciplinary action will be pursued to resolution. This is an unpleasant process for all involved, so please do not put yourself in this situation. For more information, consult: <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>

Academic integrity and misconduct: All the work you submit must be done by you (individually). Do not copy texts (directly or indirectly) from another source. Do not copy from each other. Your work must not be submitted by anyone else at any time. 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>. Plagiarism is academic fraud and is taken very seriously. You should also review this document regarding plagiarism: <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~fpitt/documents/plagiarism.html>. "How Not to Plagiarize" and other advice on documentation format and methods of integrating sources are available here: <http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/>.

Original: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The

terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>)

The University's plagiarism detection tool is: Ouriginal

Contact Policy: When emailing the TAs and/or the instructors, begin your subject line with "[CSC300]", followed by a meaningful phrase. Include your full name and section in the body of the email. All correspondence with must happen with official University of Toronto email addresses only, or will not receive a response. Allow up to 72 hours for a reply. Violation to this policy may incur severe response delays.

When you need to email an instructor, use please use: csc300-instructors@cs.toronto.edu

Resources: Lecture slides, announcements and assignments will all be posted to Quercus. It is your responsibility to check Quercus and your emails regularly for course communications and updates.

Recording: Lectures will be recorded. The recorded video will be uploaded to Quercus shortly after class. If any student has any reservations regarding recording, please contact us (csc300-instructors@cs.toronto.edu).

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.

Accessibility, accommodations and special considerations: 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>. Additional resources for accessibility services can be found at: <https://clockwork.studentlife.utoronto.ca/custom/misc/home.aspx> and <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/>.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability or a health consideration that may require accommodations, please contact the [Accessibility Services Office](#) as soon as possible. The Accessibility Services staff are available by appointment to assess needs, provide referrals and notify the teaching team concerning the appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let them know your needs, the quicker they can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

An accessibility letter must be provided to TA Harshit Gujral & the instructors at least 72 hours before a deadline for accommodations & special considerations to be arranged.

If you have missed class time and/or encounter difficulties completing your course work due to personal circumstances other than illness, you are encouraged to contact the [Office of the Faculty Registrar](#) for counselling on what special consideration may apply.

