CS 103F Tuesdays 2 pm

Jump to Today ✎ Edit

CS103F: Ethical Foundations of Computer Science

Spring 2022

Tuesdays 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Online for the first two weeks (links under Zoom in left-side navigation); starting February 1st in PHR 2.108.

Instructor: Tina L. Peterson, Ph.D. (peterson@cs.utexas.edu (mailto:peterson@cs.utexas.edu)) (mailto:tlpeterson42@gmail.com)

Office hours: Mondays 1:45 pm to 2:45 pm and Thursdays 11:30 am - 12:30 pm at https://utexas.zoom.us/j/2526426436 (https://utexas.zoom.us/j/2526426436)

TAs/proctors: Haana A Janmohamed (haanajanmohamed@utexas.edu)

Nitesh Kartha (nk9223@utexas.edu (mailto:nk9223@utexas.edu))

Basic Information

Welcome! This course strives to provide an ethical understanding within the framework of the computer science field. Given that computer science is now affecting many other fields as well as everyday life for most Americans, it is our responsibility to consider our ethical responsibilities as we have an impact on the world and society.

The main goal of this course is to learn to reason about the effects of technology and to understand the ethical and real-world consequences of that technology. This course will emphasize direct participation and discussion using case studies to illustrate ethical topics.

This course does carry the Ethics and Leadership flag, which means that it is designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life.

Prerequisites: Must be a CS or pre-CS major

Textbooks: There is no required textbook for this course

Instapoll: We will be using Instapoll for taking attendance, accessible via 'UT Instapoll' in the left column.

COURSE MODALITY

Per UT guidelines, this course will meet virtually via Zoom for the first two weeks of the semester. COVID in its many variants has become part of our 'new normal' for the foreseeable future, and life and learning must go on. We know from experience that Zoom meetings are a sub-optimal venue for this interactive class. A hybrid format is also sub-optimal, as it detracts from the learning experiences of the students in the room AND on Zoom. Therefore, starting February 1st all classes will meet in person with no virtual option.

The professor and the TAs will attend class properly masked, and we expect students to do so, as well. This course focuses on ethics and the social responsibility we have to others. As part of class, we will have many small-group discussions requiring us to sit close to one another. As such, it is especially important to take all the measures we can to protect those around us.

Real-life caveat: I have a family of four, and one of us is too young to be vaccinated. If anyone in my household (myself included) gets COVID, I will teach class online until it's once again safe for me to attend in person. As much as possible, I will post any changes to course modality 24 hours in advance of a class meeting.

Communication

You may join the course Piazza at **piazza.com/utexas/spring2022/cs103f (http://piazza.com/utexas/spring2022/cs103f)**

We will post course-related announcements and information on the board, but all assignments will be on Canvas. You must read the course PIazza at least once per day, and you should post course-related questions and responses there. We expect you to use Piazza first when you have questions or problems. You are responsible for any and all information posted to Piazza by any of the course staff.

Email to the Instructor or TAs: If you have a question whose answer may also benefit your classmates, please post it to the course Piazza before e-mailing us. Emails to the instructor or the TAs should begin with "CS103F:" in the subject line, followed by a brief description of the purpose of your email. If you follow this rule, we will be better able to address your questions in a timely manner.

If you do not, a response to your email may be delayed indefinitely.

Facebook, text message, twitter, calling a mobile phone, or other forms of informal communication: None of these should ever be used to communicate with course staff regarding 103f material.

Expectations

Course Structure: Lectures will introduce ethical concepts through description and examples. A key component of this course is the active participation of students. While we will lead you through the main concepts and provide you with details relevant for understanding and applying those concepts, you have to provide the "active learning" component. By active learning, we mean you must do things, think about things, ask questions, and engage in discussion with your classmates. The format is informal; questions are welcome all the time.

Evaluation

Participation: Each class will begin with a discussion of the case studies and topics assigned for that class. Students will break into groups in breakout rooms to discuss the topics. The instructor and the TAs will move in and out of the breakout rooms to listen and moderate.

To receive credit for participation, you must:

- Participate in class discussion
- Participate in group discussion
- Answer at least one question during class using Instapoll

You are required to attend class, and you are responsible for preparing ahead of time so that you are familiar with the material being discussed and able to contribute to the discussion. If you must miss class, you are not required to inform the instructor, but you are responsible for learning any material you missed. The instructor will post the PPT slides for each class on the course web site, but classes are interactive, so the actual discussion may depart from the outline. The best way to know what actually happened in a class is to be there and participate; if you must miss a class, you should study the notes carefully and ask a classmate what you missed in the discussion.

Weekly Blog Posts: Each week, you will work with your group to write a blog post considering and analyzing topics and case studies related to the upcoming class. Information about the requirements for the blog and its posts will be available from the course schedule. You are required to meet (virtually) as a group to discuss the assignment and create the content for that assignment. Blog posts will be submitted through a Canvas assignment. All blog posts are due before the next class

begins.

Peer Evaluations of Blog Posts: After the weekly blog posts are submitted, you will be asked to peer review three blog posts from other groups. Completing those reviews with helpful and correct feedback is an important part of the learning in this class – you'll get feedback on your post, and you'll get to see the views of others and practice providing constructive feedback.

Group Participation: Group participation will be evaluated by the course faculty and through evaluations provided by your fellow group members. Consistent failure to deliver as a teammate is grounds for early failure from this course. Students about whom the instructor receives multiple complaints or who are observed not contributing will report directly to the instructor as part of their "parole." If their performance improves and remains satisfactory, they will not be docked grade-wise on assignments. If performance does not improve and is not satisfactory, they will not receive credit for the assignments and may fail the course.

Grading: Grades are essential to insuring that your degree has the value that it deserves. As a result, we have a grading system that has two essential properties:

- It is fair to everyone in the class.
- It is a true measure of how much each student knows the class material

These class components are used to determine your final average in the following manner:

- In-Class Participation (50%): Determined by class participation, responses to questions via Instapoll, and group participation. Missing more than two classes will disqualify you from receiving full participation credit.
- Weekly Blog Posts (25%): Approximately thirteen blog posts responding to case studies, to be completed in your groups.
- Peer Evaluations of Blog Posts (12.5%): Approximately thirteen peer reviews of blog posts to be completed individually.
- Group Participation (12.5%): Determined by group member evaluations and evidence of preparation in class discussions.

Grade will be recorded in the gradebook on Canvas. The course uses the plus/minus grading scale. If you have questions or concerns about your grade, contact us during office hours or by email.

Grade Changes: If you believe your work was graded incorrectly, you may submit a complaint via email. You must submit your complaint within **one week** of the date on which we first attempted to return the graded work to you. For assignments where your feedback is given electronically, the deadline is one week from the time the grade became available on Canvas. Your complaint must

contain supporting evidence and arguments which explain why your work was graded incorrectly. (For example, it is not sufficient to submit a note that says "regrade my blog post"). Grade change requests that do not meet these requirements will not be considered. Note that we only unmute assignments on Canvas when all grades are entered. If an assignment is unmuted and you do not have a grade at all, you should be worried and submit a grade change request following the above guidelines.

Regrade requests are not given priority over any current grading, and so a response to your request may be delayed. Note that assigned grades are not the starting point of a negotiation. Unless we have made a mistake in grading your work (i.e., you have a correct answer that was marked wrong, or your score was added incorrectly), your grade is final.

Collaboration and Academic Integrity

You are encouraged to **discuss** the case studies and your responses to them with your colleagues. You are welcome to use existing existing resources to further your understanding and sharpen your thoughts. Such activities qualify under approved collaboration practices and you are welcome to take advantage of them. If you are unsure about whether a particular source of external information is permitted, contact the instructor before looking at it.

The weekly blog posts and the group presentations must include work (except clearly noted outside links) of only the group members. Materials from the web should only be used for educational purposes. For example, you can read about the topics, but you must not copy any material from the web or be looking at any of the material from the web when writing anything you submit. If you discuss an assignment with another student or read material from the web, you should employ the following technique: after a discussion with another student or reading external material you should do something that has nothing to do with the course for at least half an hour before resuming your work.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Because such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. **The penalty for cheating on an exam, quiz, or assignment in this course is an F in the course and a referral to the Dean of Students office.**

It is generally okay to verbally discuss the assignments. Three guidelines will help you keep on the right side of the line.

1. Other than the instructors, it is never okay to look at the written work of another person or show another person your written work until after all grading on an assignment is completed. This includes looking at paper print-outs. The moment you start looking at another student's (or

group's) assignment you have crossed the line into cheating. It should go without saying that copying other people's work is strictly prohibited. You also may not look at any course project material relating to any project similar to or the same as this course's class projects. For example, you may not look at the work done by a student in past years' courses, and you may not look at similar course projects at other universities.

2. While you are discussing an assignment with another student, you must not have a writing implement, keyboard, or recording device in hand. Similarly, you should not read from your own work. After discussing a problem with another student, go watch videos on Youtube or TikTok for 15 minutes before going back to work on the assignment. If you can't remember what the person said after 15 minutes, you didn't really understand it.
3. Everyone in the class is expected to take appropriate measures for protecting one's work. For example, you should protect your files and printouts from unauthorized access.

Note that these guidelines are necessarily generalizations and cannot account for all circumstances. Intellectual dishonesty can end your career, and it is your responsibility to stay on the right side of the line.

Examples of cheating include: looking at someone else's writeup, writing your solution while talking to someone else about it, talking another student through the assignment, and allowing others to look at your assignment If you have any doubts about what is allowed, ask the instructor.

Additionally, if you are repeating the course you may NOT reuse assignments. All submitted work must be new and original.

Plagiarism detection software (http://theory.stanford.edu/~aiken/moss/) will be used on various assignments to find students who have copied from one another. Anything you submit must be yours, and yours alone.

Finally, the materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture slides and assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized copying of the class materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary actions being taken against the student or other legal action against an outside entity. Additionally, the sharing of class materials without the specific, express approval of the instructor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of sharing those materials with other current or future students.

Other Stuff

Religious Holy Days: A student who is absent from an examination or cannot meet an assignment

deadline due to the observance of a religious holy day may take the exam on an alternate day or submit the assignment up to 24 hours late without penalty, if proper notice of the planned absence has been given. Notice must be given at least 14 days prior to the classes which will be missed. For religious holy days that fall within the first 2 weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester. Notice must be personally delivered to the instructor and signed and dated by the instructor, or sent certified mail. Email notification will be accepted if received, but a student submitting email notification must receive email confirmation from the instructor.

Students with Disabilities: The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please refer to SSD's website for contact and more information: **http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/ (http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/)** . If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

Final Note

This syllabus is a plan of action for the semester. It is NOT a contract and is subject to change. As the instructors, we reserve the right to make additions, deletions, and modifications to the syllabus and the course requirements with reasonable notification to the students enrolled in the course. You are responsible for any changes announced in class or on the course website.

Acknowledgements and Copyright

This course is based on a course originally developed and taught by Alison N. Norman and Sarah Abraham, and uses materials from Jenny Brown and Glenn Downing.

Copyright Notice: These course materials, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and assignments are part of a course on ethics in computer science. You must ask me permission to use these materials.

We do not grant to you the right to publish these materials for profit in any form.

Course Schedule

This schedule, and the links contained in it, are subject to change during the semester.

All viewing/reading assignments are required and (with the exception of the first week) must be completed *before* the class for which they are listed.

Tue	Jan 18		Introduction & Themes	Watch **Being Your Best Self, Parts 1-4** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/best-self-part-1-moral-awareness) (Make sure you click through to parts 2-4!)
Fri	Jan 21			Blog Post #1 due (11:59p)
Mon	Jan 24			Blog Post #1 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Jan 25		Academic Ethics and Integrity	Watch **Overconfidence Bias** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/overconfidence-bias) and **Loss Aversion** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/loss-aversion)
Fri	Jan 28			Blog Post #2 due (11:59p)
Mon	Jan 30			Blog Post #2 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Feb 1		Judgments and Stereotypes	Watch **Fundamental Attribution Error** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/fundamental-attribution-error) , **Role Morality** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/role-morality) , and **Representation** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/representation)
Fri	Feb 4			Blog Post #3 due (11:59p)
Mon	Feb 7			Blog Post #3 peer reviews due (noon)

Tue	Feb 8		Behavior in a Group	Watch **Causing Harm** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/causing-harm) and **Conformity Bias** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/conformity-bias)
Fri	Feb 11			Blog Post #4 due (11:59p)
Mon	Feb 14			Blog Post #4 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Feb 15		Welcoming Environments	Watch **Self-Serving Bias** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/self-serving-bias) and **Moral Muteness** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/moral-muteness)
Fri	Feb 18			Blog Post #5 due (11:59p)
Mon	Feb 21			Blog Post #5 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Feb 22		Behavior as an Employee	Watch **Bounded Ethicality** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/bounded-ethicality), **Incentive Gaming** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/incentive-gaming), and **Obedience to Authority** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/obedience-to-authority)
Fri	Feb 25			Blog Post #6 due (11:59p)
Mon	Feb 28			Blog Post #6 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Mar 1		Behavior When in Authority	Watch **Conflict of Interest** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/conflict-of-interest) and **Ethical Leadership**

				(http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/ethical-leadership-part-1-perilous-top) , Parts 1 and 2!
Fri	Mar 4			Blog Post #7 due (11:59p)
Mon	Mar 7			Blog Post #7 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Mar 8		Ethics of Profit	Watch **Framing** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/framing) , **Legal Rights & Ethical Responsibilities** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/legal-rights-ethical-responsibilities)
Fri	Mar 11			Blog Post #8 due (11:59p)
- - -			Spring Break!	
Mon	Mar 21			Blog Post #8 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Mar 22		Intellectual Property Guest lecturer: Dr. Sarah Abraham	Watch **Appropriation & Attribution** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/appropriation-attribution)
Fri	Mar 25			Blog Post #9 due (11:59p)
Mon	Mar 28			Blog Post #9 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Mar 29		Privacy	
Fri	Apr 1			**Blog Post #10 due** (https://www.cs.utexas.edu/~ans/classes/cs103f

				/blog/post10.html) (11:59p)
Mon	Apr 4			Blog Post #10 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Apr 5		Ethical Hacking	
Fri	Apr 8			**Blog Post #11 due** (https://www.cs.utexas.edu/~ans/classes/cs103f/blog/post11.html) (11:59p)
Mon	Apr 11			Blog Post #11 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Apr 12		Software Use and Effects	Watch **Ethical Fading** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/ethical-fading) and **Incrementalism** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/incrementalism)
Fri	Apr 15			Blog Post #12 due (11:59p)
Mon	Apr 18			Blog Post #12 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Apr 19		Games and Gamification Guest lecturer: Dr. Sarah Abraham	Watch **Tangible & Abstract** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/tangible-abstract)
Fri	Apr 22			Blog Post #13 due (11:59p)
Mon	Apr 25			Blog Post #13 peer reviews due (noon)
Tue	Apr 26		Codes of Ethics	Watch **Systemic Moral Analysis** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/systematic-moral-analysis)

Tue	May 3		Guest Speaker	Watch **Moral Equilibrium** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/moral-equilibrium) and **Moral Imagination** (http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/moral-imagination)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Jan 18, 2022	**CS 103F Tuesdays 2 pm** (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=2971030&include_contexts=course_1330904)	2pm to 3pm
Fri Jan 21, 2022	**Post 1** (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756548)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 25, 2022	**CS 103F Tuesdays 2 pm** (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=2971031&include_contexts=course_1330904)	2pm to 3pm
Fri Jan 28, 2022	**Post 2** (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756563)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 31, 2022	**Post 2 Peer Eval** (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756565)	due by 12pm
	Instapoll (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5811965)	

Date	Details	Due
	Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756503)	
	Post 1 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756562)	
	Post 10 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756549)	
	Post 10 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756550)	
	Post 10 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756551)	
	Post 11 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756552)	
	Post 11 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756553)	
	Post 11 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756554)	
	Post 12 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756555)	

Date	Details	Due
	Post 12 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756556)	
	Post 12 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756557)	
	Post 13 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756558)	
	Post 13 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756559)	
	Post 13 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756560)	
	Post 13 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756561)	
	Post 2 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756564)	
	Post 3 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756566)	
	Post 3 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756567)	

Date	Details	Due
	Post 3 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756568)	
	Post 4 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756569)	
	Post 4 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756570)	
	Post 4 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756571)	
	Post 5 - CANCELED DUE TO DEEP FREEZE (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756572)	
	Post 5 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756573)	
	Post 5 Peer Eval - CANCELED DUE TO DEEP FREEZE (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756574)	
	Post 6 - CANCELED DUE TO DEEP FREEZE (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756575)	

Date	Details	Due
	Post 6 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756576)	
	Post 6 Peer Eval - CANCELED DUE TO DEEP FREEZE (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756577)	
	Post 7 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756578)	
	Post 7 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756579)	
	Post 7 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756580)	
	Post 8 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756581)	
	Post 8 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756582)	
	Post 8 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756583)	
	Post 9 (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments	

Date	Details	Due
	/5756584)	
	Post 9 Group Participation (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756585)	
	Post 9 Peer Eval (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756586)	
	Roll Call Attendance (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5826620)	
	Updated Post 3 Submission (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756587)	
	Updated Post 7 Submission (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1330904/assignments/5756588)	