CMPS 481 - Course Syllabus

I. Seminar. Credit 1 hour. Prerequisite: Senior Classification. Discussion of social, ethical, and professional issues. Students present reports on topics of current interest in Computer Science.

II. Instructor: Dr. Troy Kammerdiener
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Office Phone: (985) 549-5314
Email Address: tkammerdiener@selu.edu
World Wide Web: http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Faculty/tkammerdiener/
Office Hours: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and by appointment. You are also welcome to just drop by during the day. If I’m here and I’m not on a deadline, I’d be happy to take some time with you.

III. Goals and Objectives:
- To become familiar with issues related to computer ethics.
- To better understand the impact of computers in society.
- To demonstrate the ability to read and critically analyze material related to computer ethics.
- To discuss computing issues with ethical, social, and possibly emotional content in a collegial open manner, and to expand on these issues in writing.
- To learn about professional development opportunities and to develop and appreciation for them.
- To demonstrate a wide understanding of computer science concepts

IV. Course Requirements:
A. Required Text and other materials:
Texts: None.
Backup & Storage: Each student must have some storage device on which they can make regular backups paper submissions.
Internet Access: Internet access is required for submission of assignments and class communication. Students are expected to check their SELU-provided email accounts, as well as the class BlackBoard site, at least once every class day, more often if possible. Adequate on-campus labs are provided at SELU with the necessary Internet access. If you wish to work on your own computer, consult the instructor for information about required software. If you wish to have Internet access from off-campus, you will have to provide for Internet service at your own expense.

B. Class Schedule and Place:
Mondays, 12:00 noon – 12:50 pm. in Fayard 213.

C. Probable Test Dates:
There is only one test, the Comprehensive Exam. This exam will occur sometime during the second half of the semester, and MUST be attended by ALL students. A failure on this exam will result in failure for the entire course, so students are encouraged to study and plan general reviews on all core computer science topics prior to the test. Since it is 2 hours in length, as a class we will determine a date for this exam which reasonably accommodates everyone’s schedule. The definition of “reasonable” is up to the instructor, and he or she will set the final, mandatory time for the Comprehensive Exam.

D. Assignments: There will be a number of assignments. Most of them will involve group discussion or some form of group interaction. A list of preparation tasks will be given for each assignment, which must be completed prior to the discussion date (which will be during a scheduled class period). Most assignments will require some sort of written preparation, and most will involve a discussion session. Written preparation must be done prior to the discussion, and must be of acceptable quality, or no credit will be given for the assignment. For assignments involving discussion (most or possibly all assignments), you must actively participate in the discussion (as evaluated by the instructor and your peers), or no credit will be given for the assignment. You must receive credit for 80% of the assignments to pass this class.

E. Professional Development Activities. You must attend at least 4 professional development activities during this semester. These activities will be things like professional seminars, job fairs, computer science job interviews, career services workshops, ACM chapter meetings, etc. A list of potential opportunities will be provided on the class blackboard site. You may plan for other events as well, with the approval of the instructor. You must provide proof of attendance at each event to your instructor, and before the event you must arrange with your instructor for what constitutes adequate proof. You are encouraged to attend more
than three, but you must provide acceptable proof of attendance at a minimum of 4 professional
development activities to pass this class.

F. Attendance Policy: Note that since this class is technically an independent study, that some class periods
may be designated as e-attendance only (physical attendance not required, but some BlackBoard based
assessment may be necessary). Attendance will be taken each day, as required by the University
Regulations. This policy may be found in the Undergraduate Catalog, and you should make yourself
familiar with it. In particular, note that excessive unexcused absences are considered 10% of the total
classes, which for this semester and class is two (2) classes. According to the University Regulations, this
may result in your being withdrawn from class by the instructor. This is not automatic however, so you
should consult the instructor if you think you may have been withdrawn from class. Do not assume that
you will be automatically withdrawn from class for non-attendance. Even if you are allowed to continue,
please understand that your grade will suffer from lack of attendance. In particular, you will NOT receive
credit for assignments requiring discussion participation if you are not present.

G. Withdrawal from Class: The last day you may withdraw from this class without a grade penalty is Friday,
October 23, 2009.

H. Return of Rental Textbooks: The last day to return rental textbooks without a fine is Monday, December
14, 2009. Rental textbooks must be purchased if not returned by 4:30pm on December 18, 2009.

I. Accommodation of Disabilities: If you are a qualified student with a disability seeking accommodations
under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to self-identify with the Office of Disability
Services, Room 111, Student Union. No accommodations will be granted without documentation from the
Office of Disability Services.

J. Class Decorum: Free discussion, inquiry, and expression is encouraged in this class. Classroom behavior
that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of students to
benefit from the instruction is not acceptable. Examples may include routinely entering class late or
departing early; use of beepers, cellular telephones, or other electronic devices; repeatedly talking in class
without being recognized; talking while others are speaking; or arguing in a way that is perceived as
“crossing the civility line.” In the event of a situation where a student legitimately needs to carry a
beeper/cellular telephone to class, prior notice and approval of the instructor is required.

K. Children in Class: It is the policy of the University that the classroom is not a place for children, and that
students are not to bring their family members for day care or baby sitting.

L. Email Communication: University e-mail policy reads (in part) as follows, "[Faculty] Uses of
non-Southeastern e-mail addresses for communication with students regarding University business or
educational matters are not acceptable...." In compliance with this policy, please use only your SLU e-mail
address when contacting me about the course. I will not respond to non-SLU e-mail addresses in any
professional capacity. Recall that your SLU e-mail accounts are accessible through the Internet via
"Web-Mail" which can be reached from the SLU homepage: http://www.selu.edu.

M. Turnitin.com: In the event that essays or papers are required as part of any assignment in this class, you
should be aware that plagiarism will not be tolerated, and may be detected through the use of Turnitin.com.
Students agree by taking this course that all required papers may be submitted to submission for textual
similarity to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source
documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such
papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the
Turnitin.com website.

N. Cancellations: If you suspect a class cancellation due to weather or any other reason, call my office
number at 549-5314. If there is a cancellation, my voice mail will reflect that fact within 2 hours of class
time (sooner if possible). If no message, assume that class will be held. I will also try to put a notice on
BlackBoard. I will normally be in class on time. If I am not, you should wait at least 15 minutes before
leaving, and someone should check my office to make sure I am not there. If I am unavoidably detained, I
will normally call and have the class instructed to either wait, or go home.

O. Changes in Requirements: Due date changes, test postponements, etc. will be announced in class. In case
of emergencies, I may attempt to contact you by phone, so please make sure that I have your phone
number, and let me know if it changes. Notices may also be given by email, or on BlackBoard. This
syllabus will be posted on the class BlackBoard site, and that copy will always be the official copy, not the
paper one received at the beginning of the semester.

V. Course Outline and/or Reading Assignments: Provided Separately.
VI. Course Methodology:
- This course will consist primarily of interactive discussion of social and ethical issues. The instructor acts only as a facilitator and evaluator.
- Students must prepare for the discussion sessions and take active part in discussions. This preparation will usually involve required reading and writing. Other preparation activities may be required as well.
- The Internet is used extensively as a communications tool in this class. Announcements, copies of assignments, a copy of this syllabus, and various examples and data files will be available on the class BlackBoard site. Announcements of a time critical nature may be emailed to class members.
- There will be a Comprehensive Test to evaluate general understanding of computer science topics during the latter half of the semester. Failure on this test will result in failure for the course.
- Reading assignments are indicated in the course outline. Students should be aware that they will be tested over the contents of their reading, as well as lecture topics. Some things will be in the text but not in the lecture, others will be in the lecture but not in the book. Both parts are necessary for success in this class.

VII. Evaluation Procedure
A. Make-up Tests: There is only one test (the Comprehensive Exam). All students are expected to take this exam at the planned time. No make-ups are possible except in extreme situations validated by the department chair or college dean.
B. Late Assignments: Late assignments are not accepted. Assignments must be done prior to any discussion period with which they are associated, and active participation is required in that discussion session, to receive credit.
C. Grade Calculation: This class is graded pass/fail. There is no grade calculation per-se. However, in order to pass, you must:
   - Pass the Comprehensive Exam.
   - Receive credit for 80% of the class assignments
   - Provide acceptable proof of attendance at a minimum of 4 professional development activities during the semester
   
   Exception: A student currently registered in CMPS 481, who performed adequately on everything except the Comprehensive Exam during a previous semester of CMPS 481, will receive a passing grade if they pass the Comprehensive Exam. They may participate in other class activities if they wish, but they are not required to do so.

VIII. Academic Integrity:
Learning is a social experience, and I wouldn't dream of trying to change that. Studying with friends, and talking among yourselves about how to attack a problem is important to success in this class. But if you don't do your own thinking -- if you only take from these discussions, and never give -- then you won't understand well enough to perform on tests. That's enough to ruin your grade in this class. Make sure that your work is your own, because you might have to pass a quiz over the content of your assignment to receive credit. **If a project is supposed to be done by a group, it will be specifically announced that way.** And if you need further help, please come see me. I try to be as accessible as I know how. If you can't make my office hours, drop by anyway -- if I'm not covered up with something, I'll be glad to work with you. And if we need to, we can make a special appointment. And remember that you can always leave me a phone message or use email.

More formally, students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Behavior that violates these standards is not acceptable. Examples are the use of unauthorized material, communication with fellow students during an examination, attempting to benefit from the work of another student and similar behavior that defeats the intent of an examination or other class work. Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, and improper acknowledgement of sources in essays and the use of a single essay or paper in more than one course without permission are considered very serious offenses and shall be grounds for disciplinary action as outlined in the current General Catalogue.
IX. **Learning Outcomes and Evaluation:** A number of Learning Objectives and Program Objectives have been established for this class, and are documented in its official course specification (which should be attached to this syllabus). The success of learning outcomes is measured by surveying students on a random sample of the Learning Objectives in the course specification. In addition, many of these outcomes are also represented in the Program Objectives covered by this course, as detailed below:

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<td>e</td>
<td>An understanding of professional, ethical and social responsibilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justification:</td>
<td>Different ethical scenarios are discussed and students are required to write about their social and ethical responsibilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measure:</td>
<td>Writing assignments are evaluated by the instructor and used to justify some rubric measurements on social and ethical responsibilities and issues.</td>
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<td>An ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences</td>
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<td>Justification:</td>
<td>Students are to present to the rest of the class their stance in regards to the scenarios that they were presented with.</td>
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<td>Measure:</td>
<td>Student presentations are evaluated by the instructor and by their peers. The instructor uses his or her subjective evaluation of these presentations to justify some rubric measurements on social and ethical responsibilities and issues. Students also must communicate some answers in written essay form on some class assignments and on the comprehensive test.</td>
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<td>An ability to analyze the impact of computing on individuals, organizations and society, including ethical, legal, security and global policy issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justification:</td>
<td>The scenarios presented to the students allow them to recognize the impact of computing on individuals, organizations and society, including ethical, legal, security and global policy issues.</td>
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<td>Measure:</td>
<td>Class assignments requiring such analysis will be evaluated by the instructor, and some questions on the comprehensive test will evaluate this as well.</td>
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<td>Recognition of the need for, and an ability to engage in, continuing professional development</td>
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<td>Measure:</td>
<td>Students are required to participate in professional development events for this class. Some assignment scenarios may also emphasize this need.</td>
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