

CSC300, Summer 2006

Course information sheet

Danny Heap

Here's a summary of the administrative details of CSC300, "Computers and society," for Summer 2006. Please check the course web page (below) often.

COURSE WEB PAGE: See <http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~heap/300/S06> for ongoing course information. You are responsible for announcements posted here, and you should check it weekly.

LECTURES: Lectures are Wednesdays from 2–4 BA1210 ("BA" for Bahen Centre). I can be reached in person in BA3222, in BA1210 during lectures, asynchronously at heap@cs.toronto.edu, or occasionally at 416-978-5899.

If you've got questions that aren't answered in class, come to office hours, Thursdays from 4–5 pm in BA3222, or simply hang around after lecture and tutorial are finished. You may also question and revise lecture material on-line by clicking on "Lectures" on the course web page.

TUTORIALS: Tutorials will be used to conduct formal debates (for credit) and to discuss research techniques. There will not be a tutorial every week, so check for announcements.

TEXTBOOK AND COMPUTING: The required text for this course is "Ethics for the information age," Michael J. Quinn, Addison Wesley, second edition. Each student enrolled in the course will have an account at cdf.toronto.edu, so that you can experiment with software and send and receive mail there. Written work that is submitted electronically must be a valid html file that is properly rendered by Firefox on CDF machines.

SYLLABUS: We will discuss the following topics:

- Background: ethics, professionalism, history
- Privacy
- Computers and work
- The net
- Trust in cyberspace
- Computers and development

MARKING SCHEME: The marking scheme is designed to put a low weight (37%) on the three-hour final exam, since I believe this reduces a potential source of stress for students. In order to do this I will need to make several smaller (and hence, I hope, less stressful) evaluations of your work. In the marking scheme below most items are worth 6%–12% of your final mark, depending on how you do. The procedure will be to sort 7 pieces of term work, and your best effort is marked out of 12%, your next best out of 11%, continuing until your worst effort is marked out of 6%. Each test is correlated with

material on the assignment preceding it. You must receive at least 40% on the final exam to pass this course.

ITEM	DUE	WORTH
Participation	May 15th–August 11th	6%–12%
Research paper plan	June 8th	6%–12%
Wikipedia entry	June 22nd	6%–12%
Web presentation	July 6th	6%–12%
Paper	July 20th	6%–12%
Debate	June 28th–July 26th	6%–12%
Journal	August 2nd	6%–12%
Exam	During exam period	37%

The details of what is required for each piece of term work will appear under “Assignments” on the main web page.

LATENESS, SICKNESS, NATURAL DISASTERS: Late work cannot be accepted, since I’d like to return your work promptly rather than wait for (and penalize) late work. If you have special circumstances that force you to miss a deadline, please contact me immediately (usually before the work is due) and fill out either the “Request for special consideration,” or the standard medical excuse form, (both forms are available on the web page) and provide all supporting documentation. Although I won’t accept late work, I will do my best to ensure that there is no penalty for a deadline missed for a valid reason.

INDEPENDENT WORK: Passing off somebody else’s work as your own for credit is a serious academic offense, and it can have serious academic consequences. Be sure to give full and generous credit to any person or book (except the instructor) you consult in solving your assignments. If you take notes when you consult a source, then you should quote that source in full.

If you intend to present work as your own, for credit, then you should avoid looking at similar work by other students, in either written or electronic form, since looking can easily turn into plagiarism. Avoid showing your own assignments to other students.