

COURSE SYLLABUS¹
DF 492.01
Professionalism and Ethics
Dr. Ken Hartness
3 credit hours
Fall 2007

Location of Lecture: AB1 209

Meeting Times: 12:00 - 12:50 p.m. MWF

Office: AB1 212F

Phone: (936) 294-3524

Office Hours: 9-10 MWF, TBA,
or by appointment

E-mail: csc_kth@shsu.edu

URL: http://www.shsu.edu/~csc_kth

Course Description: The course examines the nature, need and value of well-formed ethical constructs within the digital forensics and computer science professions. Included in this course is a discussion, through case studies, of the nature of professionalism, personal and professional codes of ethics and conduct, and the professional handling of ethical and moral conflict. The course also explores the role of the professional in public policy and the awareness of the consequences of ethical dissent and whistle blowing.

Prerequisites: Two or more advanced CS or DF classes

Course Objectives: The student will develop an understanding of professional and ethical behavior, in particular where it applies to the handling and distribution of digital evidence or important data and the appropriate utilization of technical knowledge to achieve certain goals.

Text Book: *Ethics for the Information Age*, 2nd ed., by Michael J. Quinn (ISBN: 0-321-37526-2)

Attendance policy: Attendance is essential for a class that emphasizes discussion and will affect a grade assigned for participation in the class. Where an absence affects student presentations, submission of work, or examinations, it should be cleared with the professor sufficiently in advance for the student to complete work **before** the date of the absence. A student who experiences an unexpected and excused absence should contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible and provide written evidence (e.g., clinic or doctor's note) to justify alternative arrangements. Only extra credit work can be used to improve a participation grade.

Assignments: Students will maintain a journal (separate from lecture notes) recording high points of discussions and student's own thoughts on a day's topic, as well as occasional short essay questions assigned by the instructor. In-class presentation materials of discussion topics are submitted by an assigned discussion leader for certain student-led discussions. Essays on approved topics will also be required. Each in-class discussion results in a grade based on attendance and participation.

¹If the details of this syllabus are modified during the semester, an announcement will be made in class. If a student's grade is affected, he or she may choose to be evaluated according to the original grading policy.

Exams: Three exams and a comprehensive final exam will be used to evaluate your understanding of the material. The third exam is an optional make-up exam, replacing the lowest of the first two exam grades. Exams may include multiple-choice, matching, or short answer questions but will definitely include essay questions and evaluation of case studies.

Grading Policy: The student's average is calculated by averaging grades of a certain type, then combining the uniform averages into a single weighted average according to the following weights²:

Journal (14 grades)	14%
Presentation	10%
Essay (2 grades)	18%
rough draft	2%
Participation	16%
Exams (13% each)	26%
Final Exam	14%

Academic Dishonesty: All work must be your own unless clearly identified. Anything you include in submitted work that is copied from somewhere else and any ideas incorporated into your essays which were first thought by someone else or inspired your own thinking must include credit to the original source. Any type of cheating, especially clear cases of academic dishonesty, may result in all students involved receiving a grade of F for the semester; at the least, part or all of an assignment may be rejected as a warning. (See the University Code of Conduct, www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html, and my own web page, www.shsu.edu/~csc_kth/cheating.pdf, for more information.)

Classroom Rules of Conduct: In compliance with the University Code of Conduct, students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, using inappropriate language, reading newspapers or socializing at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Students will be warned, then directed to leave the class and/or report to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom: Occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons is allowed with prior arrangement with the instructor, as long as it does not interfere with the registered members of the class or the educational process.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. The Counseling Center verifies the need for assistance and provides a request for accommodations to be shared with the professor. Students requesting

²The professor reserves the right to curve class grades in a consistent manner using any reasonable type of curve.

assistance with academically-related problems stemming from individual disabilities should contact the Director of the Counseling Center (Lee Drain Annex, 936-294-1720) in a timely manner so that a suitable learning environment is attained early in the semester.

Religious Holidays: University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day may take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Whenever possible, the student should make arrangements with the instructor at least one week in advance (see attendance policy).