

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE	
Term: FALL 2015	Course No. COMP 301
Course: COMPUTING TECHNOLOGIES IN A DIGITAL CULTURE	Credits: 3.0 Section:
INSTRUCTOR Office: Tel: 604-986-1911 (Ext.) email: @capilanou.ca	

COURSE FORMAT: Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour of supplemental activity delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

PREREQUISITES: 45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework including COMP 101.

Note: This course is offered in conjunction with the Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts (MOPA) program.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the implementations of computer technologies and their impacts on society. It focuses on linking an understanding of how these technologies work with the changes they bring to the areas of privacy, security, crime, intellectual property rights and social interactions.

The course also covers a brief history of Computing Science and the Internet as a backdrop for understanding contemporary issues associated with increased computer usage, including those arising from current events, along with an examination of the environmental impacts associated with wide-spread adoption of computer technologies.

Each module in the course presents a prevalent technology, provides students with an understanding of its implementation, and links its use to some relevant social issues. For example, a module on network communications might introduce the implementation of a communications protocol stack and physical transmission medium; students might learn how to use a packet-sniffer to intercept un-encrypted messages. The class would use this understanding to discuss the implications for privacy and how to safeguard it. This, in turn, might lead to further work on understanding encryption and network security.

Specific topics each term are chosen by the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

General: The main objective of the course is for students to gain strong foundations for making technically informed decisions related to computer technology throughout their careers.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- understand how the historical issues resulting from computer usage are relevant today; and
- critically analyse both the technical and the social issues as they arise in the areas of study, which are drawn from the following topics:
 - Open-source vs. proprietary software – copyright, patents and intellectual property;
 - Network technologies – privacy, anonymity in digital social networks;
 - File Sharing technologies – intellectual property rights;
 - Computer security – viruses, hackers, and digital terrorists
 - Encryption technologies – maintaining privacy and avoiding identity theft;
 - Communications technologies – agents of social and political change;
 - Communications technologies – freedom of speech, spam, and censorship on the Internet;
 - Artificial Intelligence – the reliability of computer decisions and the replacement of human decisions by machines.

COURSE WEBSITE: Most of the course materials will be available on the course's Moodle site. Follow the link from <http://moodle.capilanou.ca/>.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook: Tavani, Herman T. (Rivier College). Ethics and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing, 3rd or 4th ed. Wiley, January 2010, ©2011.

COURSE CONTENT:

Weeks	Topics
0.5	Introduction
4	Module 1: Privacy
4	Module 2: Security
4	Module 3: Freedom
0.5	Review
2	Exam Period

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Interactive class discussions and exercises are an important part of the course. Students are expected to prepare in advance and fully participate in these. To further the understanding of the material, students will participate in group projects and will have to complete quizzes and activities using online collaboration tools, such as discussion forums and wikis.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Final grades for the course will be computed based on the following schedule:

Assignments	30%
Term Tests & Quizzes	30%
Final Exam	35%
Performance Evaluation	5%
TOTAL	100%

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

In the absence of exceptional circumstances, which are at the instructor's discretion, the performance evaluation component of the final grade will be pro-rated to the rest of the grade using the profile above. The most common circumstance justifying an increased performance evaluation mark is an improved performance in the final examination relative to the tests during the term, which the instructor feels justifies an elevated grade.

SUPPLEMENTAL 4TH HOUR ACTIVITY:

Supplemental activity might be a scheduled tutorial, an on-line activity, a group meeting, or some other activity as indicated by your instructor.

GRADING PROFILE:

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following guidelines:

A+ 90 - 100%	B+ 77 - 79%	C+ 67 - 69%	D 50 - 59%
A 85 - 89%	B 73 - 76%	C 63 - 66%	F 0 - 49%
A- 80 - 84%	B- 70 - 72%	C- 60 - 62%	

Students should refer to the University Calendar for the effect of the above grades on grade point average.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:***University Policies:***

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating

and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other education issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

- Attendance:** Attendance at lectures, labs and tutorials is expected. Students are responsible for all information given in the lectures, labs and tutorials, including the times of tests and deadlines for assignments.
- Computer Access:** Drop-in access to the University computers is available during the hours posted outside each lab, subject to computer availability. Please respect the instructor's directions if asked to leave the lab due to a class booking. The University's Student Conduct Policy and Misuse of Computer System Policy provided in the University calendar will be strictly enforced.
- Assignment Marks:** Assignments may have different weights. Late assignments will be penalized 10% if submitted late on the due date, then 20% for each succeeding day until solutions are available, and will not be accepted thereafter.
- Missed Exams:** Normally, a score of zero will be given for a missed exam, test, quiz, lab, etc. In some exceptional situations, the student will be permitted to write a make-up test, defer the lab to a later date or to replace the score by other marks.
- The situations in which a score of zero may be avoided are those for which the student meets **all** of the following conditions:
1. Circumstances clearly beyond the control of the student caused the exam, test, quiz, lab, etc. to be missed. Such circumstances include serious illness or injury, or death of close family member. They do **NOT** include forgetting about the test, lack of preparation for the test, work-related or social obligations.
 2. The student has notified the instructor (or the Pure and Applied Science office staff, if the instructor is not available) about the missed exam, test, quiz, lab, etc. Such notification **MUST** occur in advance, if possible, or at the latest, on the day of the exam, test, quiz, lab, etc.
 3. Proof of the circumstances is provided. Proper proof of illness or injury requires a medical certificate from a doctor, who may also be consulted.
 4. The student has been fully participating in the course up until the circumstances that prevented the writing of the exam, test, quiz, lab, etc. **Fully participating means attending almost all of the classes and turning in almost all assignments in the course.**

The options offered to the student who meets the four conditions are decided by the instructor. They will not necessarily meet the convenience of the student.

Final Exam Period: Students should note that the final exam period is from **(date)** (*includes Saturday, ??*), and that they can expect to write exams at any time during this period. Individual exam times will not normally be rescheduled because of holidays, work, or other commitments. While efforts are made to spread exams throughout the exam period, an individual's particular course combination may result in exams being scheduled close together, or spread widely through the entire exam period.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Students caught cheating on a test will normally receive a grade of "F" for the course and may be expelled from the University. Plagiarism (including the copying of any part of assignments, laboratory reports and essays) is a serious offence and is a form of cheating.

Incomplete Grades: Incomplete grades ("I") are given only when special arrangements have been agreed upon with the instructor prior to the end of the semester. Since "I" grades are granted only in exceptional circumstances (usually health problems), their occurrence is rare.

English Usage: Students are expected to use correct standard English in their written and oral assignments, exams, presentations and discussions. Failure to do so may result in reduced grades in any part of the Evaluation Profile. Please refer to the guidelines provided in the Capilano Guide to Writing Assignments (available from the University bookstore).

Emergency Procedures: Please read the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.