

Summer 2013

# CS 4000: Social Implications of Computing

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## Summer 2013 Semester Syllabus

### CS 4000 Social Implications of Computing

Instructor: Dr. Leo Finkelstein, Jr.

Senior Lecturer and Director of Technical Communications

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

College of Engineering and Computer Science

416 Russ Engineering Center

Section 01: T Th 1415-1530

Section 02: T Th 1610-1725

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CS 4000 is a communication skills course using as its subject matter current salient issues associated with the social implications of computing. In addition to the course text, you will need to use certain reading materials in the library and elsewhere, and you will be responsible for using concepts and theories provided in class lectures and discussions.

The goal of this course is to blend social implications issues with common technical communication formats you'll need to be familiar with out in the "real world." To do this, the course is built around a research project on a social implications topic of your choice. You will propose your topic for approval in a written proposal and make a short proposal presentation to the class. You will also be required to make a formal presentation to the class on your research and turn in a formal research report.

#### Grades

Your grade in this course will be derived as follows:

- Proposal 30%
- Class Presentation 20%
- Research Report 50%

It's easy to see that the stakes go up as the quarter goes along, and that doing well in the research report is essential to doing well (or, for some, even getting by) in this course. Plan ahead and budget your time and resources accordingly.

#### Writing Assignments

The format rules for writing assignments are remarkably simple.

- First, everything you turn in must be typed or machine printed on standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Electronic submissions (email, FAX) are not allowed and will not be accepted.
- Second, all text must be double-spaced (single sided is preferred but not required).
- Third, you must have easily readable fonts of traditional size - i.e., in the range of 10 to 12 points for the body of the paper.
- Fourth, you must have traditionally sized margins on the top and bottom and the left and right sides. Margins from 3/4" to 1 1/4" are traditional enough for CS 4000.

### **Proposal (Text, Chapter 5)**

Write a 4-6 page proposal for the research project you will do in this course. Follow the guidelines in Chapter 6 on Informal Proposals, and double check yourself against the Proposal Checklist on pp. 104-105. Take this assignment seriously: it is worth 30% of your grade and will be intensely graded for content, format, and style.

### **Research Report (Text, Chapter 10. Also, see Chapters 12, 13, 14, and 18)**

This paper is clearly where the rubber meets the road in CS 4000. You'll have a great deal of freedom in deciding what to put in your research report, but the content should be such as to achieve all the elements of your approved proposal. As a minimum, however, the research report, which is the major deliverable of your proposal "contract," must include the following sections, along with at least one visual (illustration, chart, table, or other graphic). Use the Research Report Outline 11.1, p. 199, in the course text. Your document should include the following things:

- A short Transmittal Letter that formally delivers the document.
- An Informative Abstract of not more than 250 words.
- An Introduction that includes the purpose, problem, and scope of the report.
- A Background section (if needed) that provides theoretical and/or historical perspectives for the topic.
- A Discussion section which presents the findings and results of your research.
- A Conclusion section that summarizes the report and provides any conclusions and recommendations if appropriate.
- A List of References at the end along with needed citations throughout the report. Use the simple documentation system described in Chapter 14 of the text, pp. 255-268.

Your assignment is to produce a finished, professional research report at least 10 pages in length (not counting transmittal letter, abstract, documentation, and appendix). This assignment is worth 50% of the course points and will be intensely graded for content, format, and style.

### **Class Presentations (Text, Chapter 15)**

As a communication skills course, CS 4000 also requires you to deliver two presentations to the class: an informal presentation on your proposal and a formal presentation to the class on your research project. The informal proposal presentation does not require visuals and should not exceed 5 minutes. The formal research report presentation must include visuals - e.g., computer charts, handouts, video, etc., and must run 10- 15 minutes in length (not including any questions that may occur afterward). See Chapter 17 in your course text. After each presentation, you may also have the opportunity to discuss with the class the material you presented. The schedule for class presentations will be developed during the quarter.

### **Class Attendance**

Attendance is required. If you do not regularly attend the class, do not plan on passing the course.

### **Paper Turn-in**

Papers are due at the first of the class period on the turn-in dates designated in this syllabus. Late papers receive an automatic deduction of 1/2 letter grade for the first 24 hours, and a full letter grade for any part of any 24-hour period thereafter. Papers received without all of the required parts, as described in this syllabus and in course handouts, are subject to a failing grade. Electronic submission is not permitted in this course.

### **Academic Deficiency and Dishonesty**

CS 4000 is a writing intensive course, and, as such, **you must do your own writing**. If you extensively use materials that are not yours, even if you properly document their use, you may still fail the assignment for academic deficiency. If you commit dishonesty by plagiarizing materials that are not yours, you will automatically fail the course for academic deficiency and receive the full penalty provided by the university and college academic

dishonesty policies. See Chapter 2 for a discussion of ethics and pay particular attention to the section on plagiarism. If in doubt, ask Dr. Finkelstein.

### **Class Schedule**

- See calendars attached.

### **Course Texts**

No text is specified for social implications topics because of the dynamic nature of the subject and the amount of readily available research materials in periodicals and on the Web.

This course is Writing Intensive and requires both a written proposal and major research report, along with an informal and formal briefing. You should already have the required technical writing text listed below if you have taken EGR 3350. If not, get it now and save it for when you do take EGR 3350. The recommended grammar text should prove helpful, especially since grammar will be graded along with all other aspects of your papers.

### **Required for CS 4000**

Leo Finkelstein, Jr., *Pocket Book of Technical Writing for Engineers and Scientists*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2008 (ISBN:0073191590). You will need this text for guidance when writing your proposal and research report, and preparing your formal research presentation. This text is also used in EGR 3350.

Recommended, especially for ESL Students

Leo Finkelstein, Jr., *Pocket Book of English Grammar for Engineers and Scientists*, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., Chicago: Waveland Press, 2006 (ISBN:1577667379)

### **Writing Across the Curriculum**

CS 4000 has been designated as an Integrated Writing (IW) Course in the Major for engineering and computer science students.

### **IW Outcomes:**

Students will be expected to produce writing that:

1. Demonstrates their understanding of course content
2. Is Appropriate for the audience and purpose of a particular writing task
3. Demonstrates the degree of mastery of disciplinary writing conventions appropriate to the course (including documentation conventions), and
4. Shows competency in standard edited American English.

### **How to get help!**

Ask Dr. Finkelstein . . .

- Call him on the phone at: 937/775-5124
- Send him email at: [leo.finkelstein@wright.edu](mailto:leo.finkelstein@wright.edu)
- Come by his office (416 RC) . . . or check up front (303 RC)
- . . . by appointment on T R 0930 - 1600 (Note: he is in class much of the day).  
. . . or anytime . . . just drop by.

**CS 4000 Calendar of Topics follows.**

| LESSON & DATE | TOPICS  |
|---------------|---|
| Week 1        | Intro<br>Digital Revolution<br>Course Basics<br>Ethics FB11   |
| Week 2        | Intellectual Property<br>Computer Crime<br>Law Enforcement<br>Security  |
| Week 3        | Invasion of Privacy<br>Social Networking<br>Diffusion of Innovation   |
| Week 4        | Computers and Entropy<br>Critical Dependence/Reliability<br>Computerized Workplace                            |
| Week 5        | Health Hazards & Overdependence<br>Addiction/Obsessive-compulsive behavior<br>Impact on Culture (Microwave)   |
| Week 6        | E-Commerce<br>Online Trading<br>Computerized Workplace  |
| Week 7        | <b>Proposal Due June 25</b><br>De-skilling<br>Impact on Language<br>Transformations and Linguistic Relativity |
| Week 8        | Presentations   |
| Week 9        | Presentations   |
| Week 10       | Presentations   |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Week 11 | Presentations  |
| Week 12 | Presentations (if necessary)<br><b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE IN CLASS AT THE FIRST<br/>OF CLASS</b><br><b>LAST CLASS</b> |

**Attachment: RFP**

## **Request for Proposal (RFP)**

### **CS 4000 Research report (Summer 2013)**

All students of CS 4000, Summer Quarter 2013, are hereby notified to submit individual proposals for their research reports in class at the start of the class period on June 25, 2013.

#### **Objectives**

The requested proposal serves two purposes.

1. It constitutes a graded proposal assignment worth 30 percent of the course points to provide CS 4000 students with minimal experience and familiarity in writing proposals.
2. It provides a coherent mechanism by which CS 4000 students can develop a topic for their research report assignment and receive critical feedback.

#### **Topic Constraints**

The research report is the capstone assignment of CS 4000 and accounts for 50 percent of the course points. The proposed research report topic should be selected from the student's major field of study, should be focused on some aspect of the social implications of computing technology, and should be substantial enough to qualify as a major course project.

#### **Proposal Content**

To be acceptable, proposals submitted in response to this RFP must follow Outline 6.1 for Informal Proposals in the course text, p. 86, and must contain the following:

##### Introduction

- A Purpose Statement clearly stating that the proposed topic will fulfill the Research Report requirement for CS 4000, Summer 2013.
- A Background Statement that provides information on the proposed topic, and that demonstrates the efficacy of this topic for the CS 4000 Research Report assignment. In other words, describe the topic and show how it fulfills the requirement for a social implications of computing research paper.
- A Scope Statement that clearly defines what will and will not be treated in the proposed research report.

##### Discussion

- An Approach Statement that details specifically what the proposed paper will contain and how the research will be conducted.
- A Result Statement that defines the benefits of this report in terms of providing information and fulfilling course requirements.
- A Statement of Work that lays out the major tasks for completing the Research Report assignment, including the primary deliverables: the Research Report Briefing and the Research Report Document. Each task statement also should clarify why the task is needed.

#### Resources

- A Personnel Statement specifying who will be doing the work or providing other resources, and why they are qualified.
- A Facilities and Equipment Statement specifying what physical resources will be required and how they will be obtained.

#### Costs

- A Fiscal Statement showing the proposed budget for the project, including such costs as labor, travel, materials, and computer access.
- A Time Statement showing the hours required for completion of the proposed research report. Note: this information may be included in the Statement of Work.

#### Conclusion

- A Benefits Statement describing the advantages of adopting this proposed topic, as well as any risks associated with doing this topic.
- A Contact Statement listing an e-mail address or phone number where more information about this proposal can be obtained.

#### Appendix

- An Annotated Bibliography that lists the proposed sources for this report, including a statement describing how each source will be used.

### **Proposal Format**

To be acceptable, proposals submitted in response to this RFP must follow the format requirements specified in the CS 4000 Course Syllabus for Summer 2013 under the heading "Writing Assignments." This proposal must be in Arial, Times, or Times Roman typeface and 4 - 6 pages in length.

### **Proposal Documentation**

To be acceptable, proposals submitted in response to this RFP must provide any required documentation using one of the formats provided in the course text, Chapter 14, pp. 255-267.



### **Proposal Checklist**

To be acceptable, proposals submitted in response to this RFP must be consistent with the Proposal Checklist in the course text, pp. 104.

### **Deliverables and Schedule**

Students will provide for the following deliverables in their Proposal:

- Research Report Presentation dealing with some aspect of the Research Report at a time and place to be determined.
- Research Report document (hard copy) due in class at the first of class on **Lesson 28, April 18, 2013.**

### **References**

#### Course Texts

Finkelstein, Leo, Jr., *Pocket Book of Technical Writing for Engineers and Scientists*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2008.

#### Course Syllabus

Finkelstein, Leo, Jr., CS 4000 Course Syllabus, Summer 2013.