

SPRING 2020

CSC 356 - 01: Life in the Digital Age

Course Number: CSC 356 - 01

Classroom: Edwards Hall 107

Meeting Time: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:15 am - 12:05 pm.

Prerequisites: Junior Status.

Professor: Dr. Mehruz Kamal; Associate Professor; Department of Computing Sciences.

Office: 101 Albert W. Brown Building (FOB).

Phone/Voice: (585) 395-2179.

Web: https://www.brockport.edu/academics/computing_sciences/directory/mkamal.html

Office Hours: MWF: 10:10 - 11:00 am and by appointment.

E-mail: mkamal@brockport.edu

Course URL: Blackboard

Textbook

- Sara Baase & Timothy M. Henry, "Gift of Fire," 5th Edition, 2018, Pearson Education, ISBN 978-0-13-461527-1

Course Outcomes

- An understanding of how Information and Communication Technology change the society we live it.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of scholarship on women within a relevant knowledge area, with such scholarship constituting a central or major theme of the course, as opposed to a peripheral or occasional consideration. Scholarship on women is defined as a critical awareness of gender issues within the knowledge area. **(W)**
- Students will develop proficiency in oral discourse and be able to evaluate an oral presentation according to established criteria. **(Y)**
- Students will analyze a major issue with contemporary and enduring human significance, bringing in perspectives that have an important bearing on the issue(s) from more than one of the following Knowledge Areas: Fine Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences. **(I)**
- Students will recognize and articulate relationships between different Knowledge Areas. **(I)**
- Students will locate, evaluate, and synthesize information from a variety of sources. **(I)**
- Students will demonstrate an ability to develop and defend well-reasoned arguments. **(I)**

- Students will write a major research paper with at least one opportunity for feedback and revision **OR** demonstrate mastery of the course issues(s) in some equivalent manner determined by the instructor. (I)

Course Description from the CS Department Handbook

This course studies the impact of new technologies on the role of citizens in a global society. Includes: the changing nature of privacy and the growing use of government surveillance, including national ID cards and RFID tracking; the Internet's effect on social communication and the differing communication patterns of men and women, issues of free expression vs. censorship; the reshaping of the workplace due to telecommuting and outsourcing and its role in opening opportunities for women; the risks of over-reliance on computers and the dangers posed by hackers; and the influence of technology on human interactions. (3 credits).

Workload

- **Participation:** You will be required to complete the reading assignment for each week and participate actively in the class discussions of the reading. You will be required to participate in both individual as well as group in-class discussion assignments related to various topics discussed in lectures and in the textbook. More details will be provided by your instructor.
- **Quizzes:** There will be regular **timed quizzes** that cover the essential facts, people, events, and controversies that are relevant to the current topics. Each quiz will be a “take-home” quiz, administered through Blackboard. You may consult your book and notes while taking the quiz, but you must complete the quiz independently. In your answers, you may quote directly from the textbook, but if you do so, then you **must** use quotation marks. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. No more than 50% of your answer may be in the form of quotations. If you find any errors in the automatic grading, please email your concerns to me.
- **Current Events Assignments:** The purpose of this assignment is to become familiar with current developments related to the material of our course. Each new current events submission should contain a reference to and copy or print out of the article (or other similar item) that has been **published within the last six months**. More details will be provided by your instructor. Students will be selected at random to talk about their Current Events assignment to the rest of the class. Each student in the class will have an opportunity to present their current event assignment *at least once*.
- **Class presentation:** As part of the class presentation component of this course, you will be required to present a summary of your term paper (described in the next bulleted

item). This is an individual presentation and each presentation should be contained to 15 – 20 minutes.

- **Term paper:** You will be required to write a term paper, which will be a research/position paper due at the beginning of class on the specified due date. You will be provided with a broad list of topics to choose from. Each topic relates to a social/ethical topic relating to technology. Each paper should be properly word-processed. **Hand in a hard copy** of the paper, stapled in the upper left corner (no binders please!). You are also required to submit your paper to the appropriate drop-box on Blackboard. Papers will not be graded unless **both** a hard and soft copy are provided. You should use **Times New Roman** font and a font **size of 12** in your papers. The term paper should be **double-spaced** and contain at least **3000 words**, not counting the bibliography. The paper must be submitted in **one comprehensive file**; do not send separate files for the body of the paper and the bibliography, etc. The text of the paper should be followed by the bibliography, which lists all of the reference materials you used. You are expected to research and use a suitably broad range of source materials. Any work completed for this class must be **original**, it is not acceptable to hand in a paper written for any other class. Anything that you write that is directly based on, or refers to, the work of another author must be cited in your bibliography. Any paper that contains un-referenced material that is identical to or substantially similar to the work of another author will receive a score of zero. This penalty applies to all persons involved in the copying/plagiarism. The instructor reserves the right to use Internet tools to verify that the paper submitted is original work. For each citation there should be a **complete** reference in your bibliography. Be careful not to rely exclusively on Web sources. The quality of these sites varies and is not subject to the quality control found in traditional publishing. No more than 10% of your term paper may be quotations. The paper will be penalized **4 %** for each day that it is late (not counting weekends and days when Brockport classes are not in session).
- **Exams:** There will be a Mid-term & Final exam.

Weights used in Grading:

Quizzes	10 % of total grade
Current Events	10 % of total grade
Term Paper (at least 3000 words)	15 % of total grade
Class Presentations	10 % of total grade
Class Participation & Attendance	5 % of total grade
Midterm Examination	25% of total grade
Final Examination	25 % of total grade

Grading Policy

- A \geq 90%, A- \geq 87% but $<$ 90%
- B+ \geq 83% but $<$ 87%, B \geq 80% but $<$ 83%, B- \geq 77% but $<$ 80%
- C+ \geq 73% but $<$ 77%, C \geq 70% but $<$ 73%, C- \geq 67% but $<$ 70%
- D+ \geq 63% but $<$ 67%, D \geq 60% but $<$ 63%, D- \geq 57% but $<$ 60%
- E $<$ 57%

Course Deadlines

- Fri. Jan. 24, 2020 First day of class
- Fri. Feb. 7, 2020 Quiz # 1
- Fri. Feb 14, 2020 Current Event # 1
- Fri. Feb. 21, 2020 Last day to drop the course 5:00 PM
- Fri. Feb. 28, 2020 Quiz # 2
- Mon. Mar. 9, 2020 **Midterm exam & Term paper First Draft due**
- Fri. Mar. 13, 2020 Mid-semester grades posted
- Mon. - Fri Mar 16 - 20, 2020 **NO CLASS (Spring recess)**
- Fri. Apr. 3, 2020 Current Event # 2
- Wed. Apr. 8, 2020 – **NO CLASS (Scholars day)**
- Fri. Apr. 10, 2020 Quiz # 3
- Fri. Apr. 10, 2020 Last day to withdraw (No need for permission) 5:00 PM
- Fri. Apr. 24, 2020 Current Event # 3
- Fri. May. 1, 2020 Quiz # 4
- Mon. May. 04, 2020 Last day of class & Term paper due (Final version)
- Fri. May. 8, 2020 **Final Examination** (12:40 AM - 2:40 PM)

Reading Schedule (Tentative) – Note that topics may be added or deleted to best address the objectives of the course.

- *Week 01:* Ubiquity of Computers; Chapter 1.
 - *Week 02:* Changing nature of privacy; Chapter 2
 - *Week 03:* Freedom of speech; Chapter 3
 - *Week 04:* Changing the nature of the workplace; Chapter 6
 - *Week 05:* Changing the nature of crime; Chapter 5
 - *Week 06:* Evaluating & Controlling Technology; Chapter 7
 - *Week 07:* **Mid-term Exam**
 - *Week 08:* **Spring Break**
 - *Week 09:* Errors, failures, & risks; Chapter 8
 - *Week 10:* Changing the nature of government; Digital Divide;
 - *Week 11:* Women & IT; hand-outs
 - *Week 12:* Professional Ethics (Chapter 9)
 - *Week 13:* Term paper presentations
 - *Week 14:* Term paper presentations (cont.)
 - *Week 15:* Term paper presentations (cont.)
 - *Week 16:* **Final Examination**
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Policy on Assignments and Academic Integrity

All assignments are to be completed on individual basis, i.e., on your own, unless otherwise stated or instructed by me. Late assignments will be accepted for 4 days beyond the deadline with a penalty of 10% per day (including weekends and other holidays). If you have problems meeting the deadlines, you are encouraged to consult me at my office. Being absent from class for one reason or another is not an excuse for submitting assignments late. In such cases, contact me or type the assignment and submit it through electronic mail (email). When acts of academic dishonesties occur, college policies and procedures will be followed, often leading to severe penalties.

Policy on Attendance and Conduct in Classroom

Faculty Senate legislation mandates student attendance in all classes. Students who are unable to attend the examinations or meet deadlines for assignments on particular days due to religious beliefs, must contact me ahead and work out alternate arrangements. Students are expected to behave as reasonable adults, motivated to explore the subject matter with proper guidance from the instructor. Late arrivals and early departures, disturb the entire class and should be avoided.

As per Senate policy, students whose unexcused absences exceed 15 percent of the scheduled classes and laboratories may receive a lowered grade or failure at my discretion.

Disability Statement

Students with documented disabilities may be entitled to specific accommodations. The College at Brockport's Office for Student with Disabilities makes this determination. Please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at (585) 395-5409 or osdoffic@brockport.edu to inquire about obtaining an official letter to the course instructor detailing any approved accommodations. The student is responsible for providing the course instructor with an official letter. Faculty work as a team with the Office for Students with Disabilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Title IX Compliance

Gender discrimination and sexual harassment are prohibited in class. Title IX legislation requires the College to provide gender equity in all areas of campus life. If you or someone you know has experienced gender discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual assault, we encourage you to seek assistance and to report the incident through resources available at www.brockport.edu/titleix/index.html. Confidential assistance is available at Hazen Center for Integrated Care. For these and other regulations governing campus life, please see all of our Student Policies at www.brockport.edu/policies/index.php.

Emergency Preparedness

In case of emergency, the Emergency Alert System at The College at Brockport will be activated. Students are encouraged to maintain updated contact information using the link on the College's Emergency Information website, <https://www.brockport.edu/support/emergency>. Included on the website is detailed information about the College's emergency operations plan, classroom emergency preparedness, evacuation procedures, emergency numbers, and safety videos. In addition, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Emergency Procedures posted in classrooms, halls, and buildings and all college facilities.
