

Computer Science 2008

Social Issues and Professional Practice

Fall 2024



Department of Computer Science

Instructor: Mark Hatcher

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12pm & Fridays 1pm, EN2032

e-mail: mhatcher@mun.ca

- include COMP2007 in the subject line
- note that I do **not** check email in Brightspace
- don't expect replies outside working hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm)

Lectures: Fridays 12-12:50pm, C3023

Course Prerequisite: COMP 2001, COMP2002

Course Co-requisite: COMP 2004, COMP2006, COMP2007

Course Content:

We're going to cover some ethical and social considerations of computing, and explore practical approaches to them. We'll look at some real-life case studies, from a vast pool that's growing on a daily basis.

Topics include:

Ethics, Errors, Failures and Risks, Privacy, Freedom of Speech, Intellectual Property, Professional Ethics and Responsibilities.

Evaluation Scheme:

Type	%	Approximate Due Dates (these may change)
Assignments #1 & #3	30	October 4th, November 15th (15% each)
Online Quiz (Assignment #2)	15	October 18th, 1 hour before midterm starts
Midterm Exam	25	October 18th
Final Exam	30	not yet known

You must also obtain an average score of 50% on your class and final exams to pass this course.

Texts:

- No required course text
- Recommended reading: A Gift of Fire (Sarah Baase)

Classes and exams will be delivered on-campus. Class slides and other course materials will be made available in Brightspace on a weekly basis. In the event that on-campus activities are suspended, classes and assessments will be delivered online, as seamless as possible.

Course Schedule (tentative):

Week Beginning	Topics	Readings
September 2nd	Prologue, Introduction	Class Slides #0, #1 A Gift of Fire Chapter 1
September 9th	Ethics (intro & framework)	Class Slides #2 Capetown Ethics Chapter
September 16th	Ethics (rights, values, law)	Class Slides #2 Capetown Ethics Chapter
September 23rd	Ethics (critical reasoning)	Class Slides #2 Capetown Ethics Chapter
September 30th	Privacy	Class Slides #3 A Gift of Fire Chapter 2
October 7th	Privacy	Class Slides #3 A Gift of Fire Chapter 2
October 14th	Class Exam October 18th	Review course notes
October 21st	Errors, Failures and Risks	Class Slides #4 A Gift of Fire Chapter 8
October 28th	Errors, Failures and Risks	Class Slides #4 A Gift of Fire Chapter 8
November 4th	Freedom of Speech	Class Slides #5 A Gift of Fire Chapter 3
November 11th	None (Friday's class is for COMP2000)	
November 18th	Intellectual Property	Class Slides #6 A Gift of Fire Chapter 4
November 25th	Professional Ethics and Responsibilities	Class Slides #7 A Gift of Fire Chapter 9 IEEE/ACM Document

Assessment Schedule (tentative):

Item	Due Date
Assignment 1	Oct 4th
Assignment 2: Online Quiz	Oct 18th by 11am
Class Exam	Oct 18th
Assignment 3	Nov 15th
Final Exam	not yet known

Important Notes:

1. Memorial University of Newfoundland is committed to supporting inclusive education based on the principles of equity, accessibility and collaboration. Accommodations are provided within the scope of the University Policies for the Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (www.mun.ca/policy/site/policy.php?id=239). Students who may need an academic accommodation are asked to initiate the request with the Glenn Roy Blundon Centre at the earliest opportunity (www.mun.ca/blundon).
2. In the event of university closure on the day of an exam, the exam will be given in the next scheduled class.
3. Assignments are due at **11:59 p.m.** on the specified date, in the specified manner. No late assignments will be accepted. **It is your responsibility to make sure that the correct files are actually uploaded or present, so check for the confirmation that your files have been uploaded.** Be aware that the files you submit for evaluation should be uploaded on or before the due date and much before the cut off time. Even if you are late by a few seconds you will not be allowed to submit your work; hence you should try to upload the files at least 15 minutes before the cut off time since your system clock is not synchronized with the CITL's system clock and the cutoff time is based on CITL's system clock. Please note that if your files have been correctly uploaded, you will get a confirmation receipt from the Dropbox tool. If you do not receive this receipt, please contact the CITL Support team (<https://www.mun.ca/support/>).
4. Note that, while the due times are at 11:59pm Newfoundland Time, help is not available after 4:30pm on the due date, or on weekends. The last few hours from 4:30pm to 11:59pm should be used to finalize your work and submit it. Any questions you may have about the lab exercise, quiz or assignment should be asked well in advance of the due date/time to allow time for help to be given.
5. If for special circumstances such as medical or bereavement you are going to miss an assignment or exam then you must notify your instructor **as soon as possible**. Unless there is good justification this should happen before the assignment deadline, or before the start of the exam, and in any event no later than 48 hours after the deadline/exam start. You must subsequently provide any related documentation (if required). Failure to do this can result in a mark of 0% for that work. For more information, please see the University Calendar - University Regulations - General Academic Regulations (Undergraduate) 6.7.5 (**Exemptions from Parts of the Evaluation**) and 6.15 (**Appeal of Decisions**) or consult the Registrar's Office. If the reasons for missed work are acceptable then your instructor will provide details of any alternate evaluation scheme.
6. **This course does not have an option for writing deferred class exams. If, for any reason, you are going to miss the class exam, you should contact your instructor right away, before the exam begins, giving the reasons for missing the exam, and requesting that the weight of the missed exam be added to the weight of the final exam. If you first contact the instructor after the missed exam, you will have to provide documentation that proves why it was not possible to make contact beforehand. Any change will be subject to approval.**
7. Requests for any deferred **Final** exam should be made by filling in the Request for Deferred Exam form, along with any required documentary proof. See here for what is required and where to submit your form: https://www.mun.ca/computerscience/ugrad/UGAdvising/registration_issues.php#deferring
8. Assignments and exams must be original and independent work. **The use of AI and other assistive technology such as Grammarly is forbidden.** Copying someone else's work or allowing your work to be copied is a serious breach of university regulations and ethics. Any and all copied material will receive the mark of 0%. **If your assignments are quite similar then it can be construed as copying.** (Even if you have done your own work but have consulted a friend as you are doing the assignment then the assignment will turn out to be quite similar.) Please see the University Calendar - General Academic Regulations (Undergraduate) - 6.12 (**Academic Misconduct**).
9. The final grade assigned for this course will be numerical. See: <https://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=REGS-0661>