

COS450 - Humans and Computers

Interim 2014

Instructor

Dr. Eric Gossett CC 224 638-6131 Office Hours: mornings or by appointment

Prerequisites

Explicit: COS216 Data Structures and COS301 Operating Systems.

Implicit: This is a 400 level (Junior/Senior) class. The course will be conducted on that basis. Students will be assumed to have achieved the objectives set out in the first two years of Bethel's General Education requirements.

Texts

- *A Gift of Fire, social, legal, and ethical issues in computing*, fourth edition, by Sara Baase, ISBN 9780132492676.
- *Shaping a Digital World, faith, culture and computer technology*, by Derek C. Schuurman, ISBN 9780830827138.
- *Elements of User Experience*, second edition, by Jesse James Garrett, ISBN 9780321683687.
- *Don't Make Me Think*, second edition, by Steve Krug, ISBN 9780321344755.

Grading

Grades will be based upon the following components:

In-class participation	20 %
Individual presentation	10 %
Project	15 %
Reading	15 %
Group Presentation	10 %
Exam	15 %
Final paper	15 %
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100 %

The grading scale is:

93 - 100%	A	76 - 79 %	C+
90 - 92 %	A-	65 - 75 %	C
87 - 89 %	B+	60 - 64 %	C-
83 - 86 %	B	57 - 59 %	D+
80 - 82 %	B-	50 - 56 %	D

Individual Presentations

Each student will choose or be assigned a reading assignment over material related to some topic in the course. The student will be responsible for

- evaluating the credentials and credibility of the writer – *especially if the article is on the web*
- presenting to the class a 15 minute summary/exposition of the material
- leading a 10 minute discussion after the presentation.

Reading

Each time you do not complete 100% of the assigned reading, you will lose 1% (out of the 15% possible).

Group Presentations

Every student will join with several other students to present one of the class exercises found in *A Gift of Fire*. The groups will be chosen by the instructor.

Final Paper

Every student will write a 4 – 6 page, word-processed paper on the topic listed below. The paper should use a double-spaced, 12 point font and have at least 6 inches of text (from left to right). The top and bottom margins should be 1 inch. The title and author should be on a separate cover page.

Topic

Biblical Guidelines for Computing Professionals.

Standards

As the topic title suggests, your paper should represent a *serious* examination of issues raised in the course and a serious application of Biblical insights towards those issues. You should incorporate information learned in your Theology and Biblical Themes courses where appropriate.

A 4 – 6 page paper from Juniors and Seniors should not have mechanical defects. Misspelled or incorrect words, poor grammar, and poor structure will result in a substantially reduced grade.

Course Topics

This course will cover a variety of societal and personal ethical issues that have been created and potentially solved by advances in computing technology. There will also be a discussion of the design of user experience and usability issues.

User Experience Project

We will be working on the user interface for a project with Youth Enterprises (A Christian non-profit organization). The project will be completed in the Spring Software Engineering course.

Class Periods and Attendance

Students will be responsible for material that is covered in lecture. Lectures may include material that is not discussed in the textbook.

The schedule may be changed (including when exams are given), announcements may be made, etc. This class operates under expectations given at:

http://bethelnet.bethel.edu/cas-faculty/Policies/classroom_behavior.htm.

Cell phones may only be used for time keeping.

Due to the pace and style of this course, attendance is mandatory for every class period. The first absence, *for any reason*, will lower the participation credit by 3% (out of the 20% possible). A second or third absence will lower the credit by an additional 4% and 5%, respectively. The fourth absence will drop the participation grade to 0. A fifth absence will result in an F for the course.

Institutional Policies

You should review and be aware of several Bethel academic policies:

Attendance https://bethelnet.bethel.edu/academic-affairs/policies/Attendance.Enrolled_Students.pdf

Accessibility <http://www.bethel.edu/disability/accommodations/>

Appeals https://bethelnet.bethel.edu/academic-affairs/policies/Academic_Appeals.pdf

Computing and Network Usage <https://iam.bethel.edu/ruptext.html>

Learning Integrity

Talking through problems often helps students to learn and understand material in the course. To that end, many of the in class activities and presentations will be done as groups. However, homework that is not designated as a group project must be your own work. This class operates under Bethels Academic Honesty Policy. See:

https://bethelnet.bethel.edu/academic-affairs/policies/Academic_Honesty.Definitions.pdf
and

https://bethelnet.bethel.edu/academic-affairs/policies/Academic_Honesty_Violations.pdf.
All academic dishonesty will be treated very seriously. Offenses may result in penalties ranging from failing the assignment to failing the course to expulsion. If you have doubts about the honesty of an action, ask the professor. Students are expected to be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course, and even first offenses will be dealt with harshly.