



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

CSCI/CISA 4101: Ethical Issues in Computing, Spring 2025, CRN: 24751/24748

Department of Computing and Cyber Security, College of Business

Course Syllabus

Class Modality: Online Synchronous

Class Meeting Time and Place: R 12:30 pm – 1:20 pm (Class)

Class Duration: 01/21/25 – 5/13/25

Instructor: Al Dungo

Office: Online ONLY

For Live Voice Calls/Video Chat: Microsoft Teams

E-Mail: adungo@tamusa.edu

Student emails will receive a reply within two business days.

Course Website:

<https://tamusa.blackboard.com/>

Class Meeting Link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWZmZGI1ZWYtYTE2Yy00ZTI2LTg1NjktNGYzMDg4ZDA0OWRm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225cf670c5-279f-4573-9a15-033d4286fa0e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222ebff9af-a835-4e16-a21d-b1789fe2ba6d%22%7d

Office Hours:

Private office hours sessions with the professor are by scheduled appointment only, or during active online hours at the professor's discretion. Office hours are subject to change at any point during the semester based off the professor's availability. The best way to guarantee designated time is through the following booking site:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/PFIFall2024@tamusa.edu/bookings/>

TEXTS:

Several articles posted through BB

Ethical and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing, 5th edition, Herman T. Tavani, ISBN: 978-1119239758 (PDF Copy provided on Blackboard)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course students will identify the various ethical issues and values as it relates to future careers within their discipline. Students will study various cases and identify the ethical issues, and seek mechanisms for addressing and resolving the issues. Through mock debates, studying, writing and presenting professional ethical analysis studies, students will be prepared to understand and address the ethical issues within their discipline. TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Math

Prerequisites: [UNIV 3101](#) or [CSCI 3101](#) or Senior standing.

Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students with a semester level of Senior. Graduate level students may not enroll.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Differentiate between ethical theories
 - Identify implicit assumptions and biases in arguments
 - Demonstrates an awareness and understanding of controversial issues relating to computing and society.
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- Demonstrate ability to give an oral presentation, which is well organized, with a clear purpose.
 - Demonstrate effective and professional delivery of an oral presentation.
 - Demonstrate ability to write a paper, which is well organized, with a state purpose and clear organization of ideas.
 - Demonstrate ability to write a paper whose content is detailed, accurate, and follows standard English usage.
 - Demonstrate original thought.
 - Demonstrate correct use of references, cited in a standard formatting style.

Required Materials:

□ **Textbook:** Ethical and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing, 5th edition, Herman T. Tavani, ISBN: 978-1119239758 (PDF Copy provided on Blackboard)

- Several articles posted through BB

□ **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. You will have course reading materials, instructions, submission links, recordings, and other supplementary materials in Blackboard. All class communications will be through Blackboard and students should monitor this several times a day.

□ **Microsoft Teams:** *One of the biggest changes since the Fall 2024 semester is the delivery of online lecture through Microsoft Teams.* Although not required to download the Microsoft Teams application itself, the majority of Windows PCs may have the application already or have an easier ability to install. Microsoft Teams meetings can still be accessible through an online browser, and all Teams meeting links will be provided to the students through several methods (Blackboard, email, Microsoft Teams classroom, etc.).

□ **Computer Hardware:** In order to participate in online sessions, you will need a computer with an internet connection, a microphone and speakers/headphones. To complete the class work, you will need appropriate software installed on the computer.

Time Expectation for coursework: You are expected to spend 4-8 hours per week for the course. Based on the background, some students may require more time. Time spent may be longer when presentation submissions or the final essay paper is due.

AI policy: CSCI/CISA 4101 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Class conduct and civility code: Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. Attendance may be taken by an appropriate method by the instructor.
2. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
3. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes and provide it to the instructor, if necessary. Keep own copies of all computer files and e-mails till final grade is received.
4. Talking while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.
5. Using computers or phones (except for a valid urgent need) during class for a purpose not related to class is disruptive. All cell phones and gadgets should be turned OFF.
6. For any questions about the course requirements and assignments, a student should contact the instructor, well in advance of the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
7. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account and Microsoft Teams, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The instructor will reply to a student e-mail messages and voice messages within 2 business days (Monday-Friday).
8. All assignment submissions must be uploaded as instructed by the due date and time. Submission window may close or marked late, even if late by one second.

Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.

GRADING POLICY: GRADES WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING.

Attendance/Participation	10%
Presentations	30%
Essay paper	60%
Total	100%

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% => A; 80 – 89% => B; 70 – 79% => C; 60 – 69% => D; Below 60% => F.

Course Assignments:

The textbook (Ethics and Technology, available in BB) contains 12 chapters. Through those chapters many ethical scenarios and discussion questions. Each student must submit and present 2 ethical cases throughout the semester. During each class, a set number of presentations determined by the instructor will occur within a designated time limit. Feedback on all presentations must be submitted in Blackboard and will be counted for attendance/participation. Students will also work on a Systematic Literature Review over the course of the semester, including two milestones with deliverables and a final essay paper.

This syllabus is subject to change with notification on Blackboard, email, Microsoft Teams, or other written notification.

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via tamusa email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in suite 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment-based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.tamus.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources: As a college student, there may be a time when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at A&M-SA, please contact the Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC & WS) located in Modular C Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. All mental health services provided by SC & WS are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SC&WS provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling.

In a crisis, please walk-in to the SC & WS services between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <http://www.tamusa.edu/riskmanagement/index.html>.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive

Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 208. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.

- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

Drop Policy: You may drop the course with an automatic grade of W on or before the date listed in the academic calendar at www.tamusa.edu. The last date to drop a course, or withdraw from the University is also indicated in the academic calendar on the university website (www.tamusa.edu). If you wish to drop the class, you must submit the necessary paperwork to the proper authority. Students dropping a course are subject to all conditions listed in the university catalog.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of University Student Rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and University officials.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to maintain a level of behavior that is consistent in supporting the learning environment of the institution and to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.

Violations of Academic Conduct (Section 14.5 Student Handbook): As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts that violate the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Code of Conduct. For more information please visit the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities website <http://bit.ly/TAMUSAStudentRR>.

Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions, collusion, lying and bribery. For more information, refer to the Student Code of Conduct, Article III: Conduct Rules and Regulations. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty has the discretion to impose grade penalties as deemed necessary.

Faculty members are required to report such serious breaches of academic honesty to their chair, their dean and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. In cases of academic misconduct, students may be subject not only to grade sanctions in courses but to disciplinary action. Grade sanctions may be imposed only by faculty members, but suspension or expulsion may be imposed only by the Vice President for Student Affairs. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of suspension or expulsion due to violations of academic misconduct, they must initiate their appeal as outlined within the Student Code of Conduct. Extenuating circumstances may cause the University to deviate from the defined time frames.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. Posting of any class work given to student, or solutions, or discussion, on publicly accessible forums or on social media is not permissible.

Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If a student is unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please she/he should contact the instructor for an assessment of the situation.

Key Dates for Spring 2025 Semester

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/documents/AY2025-Academic-Calendar.pdf>

Jan 14	Tuition & Fee payment deadline. A \$35 fee will be assessed for paying after this date
Jan 16	Drop for non-payment
Jan 17	Last day for students withdrawing to receive 100% refund and responsible for 0% of tuition
Jan 20	Martin Luther King Day. A&M-SA closed
Jan 21	First class day
Jan 28	Last day to register for Spring 16-week Session
Jan 24	Deadline for students who have applied for Spring 2024 graduation to complete Change of Name and/or Change of Major form(s) at the Welcome Center
Jan 24	Last day for students to apply for Spring 2024 graduation
Feb 5	Census Date
Feb 6	Drop for non-payment
Feb 14	Spring 2024 Graduation Application Fee payment deadline
Mar 10 – 15	Spring Break
Apr 18	Study Day – No Classes
April 21	Last day to drop with an automatic grade of “W”
Apr 28	Last day to withdraw from the university
May 5	Last Day of Scheduled Classes
May 6	Study Day – No Classes
May 7 – 13	Final Examinations
May 13	End of Spring Semester
May 16	All grades for Spring 16-week session due by noon via Jagwire
May 19	Grades Available in JagWire