



Instructor Information

- **Instructor Name:** Prof. Alex Ferworn
- **Office Location:** Virtual
- **Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10 AM-12 PM
- **Classroom:** When in-person: TRS1-067
When on-line: by Zoom accessible, see below
- **Course Website:** D2L course shell on my.ryerson.ca
- **Instructor Email:** aferworn@ryerson.ca
- **Teaching Assistant email:**

cps412-test@cs.ryerson.ca¹ and cps412-assign@cs.ryerson.ca²

Course Description

This course will cover some of the fundamental social, legal, and ethical issues inherent in the discipline of computing. Topics include social context, analytical tools, professional ethics, intellectual property, privacy and civil liberties, professional communication and sustainability. Lect.: 3 hours per week. Prerequisites: None.

Email Policy

In accordance with the Policy on Ryerson Student E-mail Accounts (Policy 157), Ryerson requires that any electronic communication by students to Ryerson faculty or staff be sent from their official Ryerson email account.

Course Details

Technologies to be Use and Minimum Technology Requirements for Students

Live classes will be conducted in the classroom using the technologies available at the podium at the front of the classroom. Since all evaluations are based on written submissions and through the course D2L shell, students should have access to a reasonably up-to-date computing device. The University has issued a [minimum technology requirement for remote learning](#). Students should also have access to word processing software that can produce PDF documents.

Online Class Instructions

Classes on Fridays can be joined through the following link:

<https://ryerson.zoom.us/j/96820748839?pwd=WVVQS0luOXdGNm9LMjBIQmdLaWpZZz09>

Meeting ID: 968 2074 8839, Passcode: 653906

Classes on Wednesdays can be joined through the following link:

<https://ryerson.zoom.us/j/96502632036?pwd=L09BbkZKcm9PWkxpK1BOejhSeU5WUT09>

Meeting ID: 965 0263 2036, Passcode: 166525

Format of Class and Teaching Methods

Classes will be conducted in person in the listed classroom at the times designated. Simultaneously, the class will also be available via a Zoom meeting link where students can participate and learn remotely,

¹ For questions about quizzes and tests, this email goes to the TAs responsible.

² For questions about assignments, this email goes to the TAs responsible.



should they choose to do so. Details concerning the Zoom meetings will be available on the course shell where recording of each class will also be posted as soon as they are available.

The format of the classes may vary during the term with prior notice posted on the D2L course shell. Most of the time, the bulk of the course content will be presented in the Wednesday class. The Friday class hour will be used to conduct evaluations (tests, etc), answer questions and cover material that could not be covered in the Wednesday class.

Course Materials

Text Book

Ethics for the Information Age, 7/E (or 8th), Michael J. Quinn

ISBN-13: 9780134296548, 2017, Pearson, 531 pages

This text is written from a US perspective but has the basic information we will use to create a Canadian perspective. The version of the text doesn't matter. Please find the cheapest method of obtaining the text.

Course Readings

Notes and other documents will be provide on the Course Shell. These will include PDF versions of any presentation/lesson that occurs during class. A large number of explanatory videos will also be provided.

Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes will be conducted on scheduled class dates. Quizzes will be made available during the time allotted for them through the course shell. Quizzes will require short answers to questions. *You will have a minimum of 3 hours to complete any quiz.* The exam will be multiple choice and made available during exam week. All evaluations will be conducted online.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Appreciate how the discipline of Computer Science has been created, evolved and influenced by a wide variety of technologies and ways of thinking and that it continues to evolve much faster than almost any other discipline.
2. Understand the roles and responsibilities of Computer Scientists in our Society.
3. Gain a solid grasp of different theories of ethical decision-making and apply it to decisions in professional life.
4. Gain a solid grasp of how to deal with issues such as the increased spam, cyber-bullying, censorship, creation and exchange of intellectual property, information privacy, and competing interests of personal privacy and public safety.
5. Understand the vulnerabilities of networked computers and how they are used for cybercrime, cyber-espionage, and cyber-attacks.
6. Understand the reliability of computer simulations, the emergence of software engineering as a distinct discipline, and the validity of software quality assurance.
7. Understand professional Codes of Practice relevant to Computer Scientists.
8. Understand a wide variety of issues related to how technological change impacts our society.
9. Understand what intellectual property is, who owns it and understand the legal framework around this concept in Canada.
10. Understand, appreciate and foster human diversity, equity and inclusion in Computer Science.
11. Explain how the profession of Computer Science can be used for the public good.



Plagiarism Detection

Assignments and tests will be submitted through the course shell, evaluated by Turnitin for originality, and marked by TAs who will assign grades.



The Use of Turnitin

Turnitin.com is a plagiarism prevention and detection service to which Ryerson subscribes. It is a tool to assist instructors in determining the similarity between students’ work and the work of other students who have submitted papers to the site (at any university), internet sources, and a wide range of books, journals and other publications. While it does not contain all possible sources, it gives instructors some assurance that students’ work is their own. No decisions are made by the service; it generates an “originality report,” which instructors must evaluate to judge if something is plagiarized.

Students agree by taking this course that their written work will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com. Instructors can opt to have student’s papers included in the Turnitin.com database or not. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms-of-use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com website. Students who do not want their work submitted to this plagiarism detection service must, by the end of the second week of class, consult with their instructor to make alternate arrangements. Even when an instructor has not indicated that a plagiarism detection service will be used, or when a student has opted out of the plagiarism detection service, if the instructor has reason to suspect that an individual piece of work has been plagiarized, the instructor is permitted to submit that work in a non-identifying way to any plagiarism detection service.

Topics and Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
Day 1³	Jan 14	Introduction to the Course	Course Management Form
Week 2	Jan 19	Computer Science as a Catalyst	Text chapter 1
Week 3	Jan 26	Networked Communications	Text chapter 3
Week 4	Feb 2	Introduction to Ethics – Part 1	Text chapter 2
Week 5	Feb 9	Introduction to Ethics – Part 2	Text chapter 2
Week 6	Feb 16	Intellectual Property in Canada	Course Shell
Week 7	Mar 2	Privacy	Course Shell
Week 8	Mar 9	Computer and Network Security	Text chapter 7
Week 9	Mar 16	Professional Ethics. What to Expect After Graduation (alumni speaker)	Text Chapter 9
Week 10	Mar 23	Leadership in Computer Science	Course Shell
Week 11	Mar 30	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	Course Shell
Final class	Apr 6	Computer Science and the Public Good	Course Shell

³ Our first class coincides with the first day of the term and the last day of that week.



Assessment Weighting Breakdown

Evaluation Component	Percentage of Final Grade	Given ⁴ (G), Due (D) and What’s it on (WIO)
Quiz 1	10	G:D: Week 3, 28 January 0900-1200 , WIO: Computer Science as a Catalyst
Quiz 2	10	G:D: Week 4, 4 February 0900-1200 , WIO: Communications
Quiz 3	10	G:D: Week 5, 11 February 0900-1200 , WIO: Ethics 1
Quiz 4	10	G:D: Week 6, 18 February 0900-1200 , WIO: Ethics 2
Quiz 5	10	G:D: Week 11, 1 April 0900-1200 , WIO: All Material
Assignment 1	10	G: W5, D: W7, WIO: Filter Bubble Ethics
Assignment 2	10	G: W7, D: W9, WIO: COVID Passport Privacy
Assignment 3	10	G: W9, D: W11, WIO: Bias in Facial Recognition
Final Exam	20	G&D During Exam Week, WIO: Everything covered
Total:	100%	

Details Concerning Evaluations

Assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the Friday of the week it is due. **Late assignments will not be marked.** Students requesting that their late assignments should be marked despite the policy I have just provided, shall be sent an image of a would-be passenger watching a mode of transportation that they have obviously missed leaving without them and referred back to the previous sentence. There are no makeup tests. Marks will be provided to students in the course through the course shell and will normally be available within two weeks of when the evaluation took place.

Questions concerning evaluations should be directed to the appropriate email address provided under the heading, “**Teaching Assistant Email**”.

University Policies

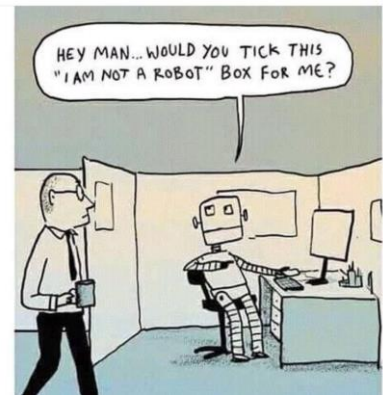
Students are reminded that they are required to adhere to all relevant university policies found in their online course shell in D2L and/or on the following URL: <http://ryerson.ca/senate/course-outline-policies>

⁴ W == Week



Important Resources Available at Ryerson

- [The Library](#) provides research workshops and individual assistance. If the University is open, there is a Research Help desk on the second floor of the library, or go to [Workshops](#).
- [Student Learning Support](#) offers group-based and individual help with writing, math, study skills, and transition support, as well as [resources and checklists to support students as online learners](#).
- You can submit an [Academic Consideration Request](#) when an extenuating circumstance has occurred that has significantly impacted your ability to fulfill an academic requirement. You may always visit the [Senate website](#) and select the blue radial button on the top right hand side entitled: Academic Consideration Request (ACR) to submit this request).



Please note that the Interim Provost/ Vice President Academic and Dean's approved a COVID-19 statement for Fall 2020/Winter 2021 related to academic consideration. This statement has been built into the Online Academic Consideration System and is also on the Senate website (www.ryerson.ca/senate):

Policy 167: Academic Consideration for Fall 2020/Winter 2021 due to COVID-19: Students who miss an assessment due to cold or flu-like symptoms, or due to self-isolation, are currently not required to provide a health certificate. Other absences must follow Senate [Policy 167: Academic Consideration](#).

Also NOTE: Outside of COVID-19 symptoms, the new Policy 167: Academic Consideration does allow for a once per term academic consideration request without supporting documentation if the absence is less than 3 days in duration and is not for a final exam/final assessment. In both of those instances, documentation is required. For more information please see Senate [Policy 167: Academic Consideration](#).

- [Ryerson COVID-19 Information and Updates for Students](#) summarizes the variety of resources available to students during the pandemic.
- Familiarize yourself with the tools you will need to use for remote learning. The [Continuity of Learning Guide](#) for students includes guides to completing quizzes or exams in D2L or Respondus, using D2L Brightspace, joining online meetings or lectures, and collaborating with the Google Suite.
- Information on Copyright for [Faculty](#) and [students](#).
- *At Ryerson, we recognize that things can come up throughout the term that may interfere with a student's ability to succeed in their coursework. These circumstances are outside of one's control and can have a serious impact on physical and mental well-being. Seeking help can be a challenge, especially in those times of crisis. Below are resources we encourage all Ryerson community members to access to ensure support is reachable.*



<https://www.ryerson.ca/mental-health-wellbeing>

If support is needed immediately, you can access these outside resources at anytime:

Distress Line — 24/7 line for if you are in crisis, feeling suicidal or in need of emotional support (phone: 416-408-4357)

Good2Talk- 24/7 hour line for postsecondary students (phone: 1-866-925-5454)

