

COMP 1950 Ethics and Technology – Spring 2025

Bill Baggett, PhD

Contact Information:

- wbaggett@memphis.edu - Please send emails from your University email address to wbaggett@memphis.edu with the subject "COMP 1950." I will try to respond within 24 hours.
- Office: Dunn Hall 390

Office Hours

Please email me to schedule an appointment.

Lecture Meeting Times/Locations:

Fridays, 9:10am - 10:05am, Fogelman Classroom Bldg. Room 133

Catalog Description:

COMP 1950 - Ethics and Technology (1). Ethical and leadership issues for computing professionals including professional codes of ethics, privacy, cybersecurity, and intellectual property.

Required Text:

Herman T. Tavani, *Ethics and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing, 5th Edition*, John Wiley & Sons Publishers, 2016. ISBN: 978-1-119-23975-8.

Course Website:

Class materials (lecture notes, review questions, etc.) will be posted on the Canvas system at <https://memphis.instructure.com/> throughout the semester.

Evaluation:

Class Participation	100 pts.
Midterm Exam	450 pts.
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	450 pts.

Final grade: add up your point total and divide by 1000.

Grading Scale: Letter grades will be determined as follows:

A+: 96% and above; A: 90-95%
B+: 87-89%; B: 81-86%; B-: 79-80%
C+: 77-78%; C: 71-76%; C-: 69-70%
D+: 67-68%; D: 60-66%
F: Below 60%

Attendance/Participation

Students are expected to i) arrive on time to class, ii) stay until the end of class, and iii) participate in the middle.

You will begin the semester with 100 participation points. If I notice that you are missing from class at any time, I will deduct 10 points for that day. If a student's attendance or performance becomes problematic, the instructor will report the student to the Early Intervention System at the University.

Email:

Please check your University of Memphis email account at least once a day, as that is my primary means of communicating with you outside of class.

Late/Makeup Policy:

Makeup exams will be given only under extreme circumstances. If you feel that your circumstances warrant a late work submission or a makeup exam, get in touch with me as soon as possible. Be prepared to show some kind of documented proof of your situation.

Plagiarism/Cheating Policy:

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly, through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class in addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the regular institutional disciplinary procedures.

Academic Misconduct Definition (see <https://www.memphis.edu/osa/students/academic-misconduct.php>)

A student may be found to have engaged in academic misconduct, if they engage in any act of academic dishonesty which may include, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Making use of or providing unauthorized assistance or materials in the preparation or taking of an examination or other academic coursework;
- b. Acting as a substitute for another person in any academic evaluation or assignment;
- c. Utilizing another person as a substitute for him/herself in any academic evaluation or assignment;
- d. Committing plagiarism by presenting as one's own work, for academic evaluation or assignment, the ideas, representations, or works of another person or persons or oneself without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources;
- e. Knowingly submitting one's work for multiple assignments or classes unless explicitly authorized by the instructor;
- f. Committing an act that materially prevents, impedes, and/or impairs others from completing an academic evaluation or assignment; and/or
- g. Attempting to influence or change one's academic evaluation or record, through dishonesty, coercion, threat, and/or intimidation.

Policy During Exams

- No electronic devices.
 - No phones.
 - No watches.
 - No headphones.
 - Turn them off. Put them in a bag, not on your person.
- Closed book, closed note, closed neighbor.
 - Just you and your pen/pencil.
 - No talking or sharing with other students.
- No hats, coats, or jackets.
 - Nothing in your pockets.
- No leaving the classroom.
 - Students may not leave the room, including to use the restroom, during the test.
 - If you leave, the instructor does not have to let you back in.

Student Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodations, or if you have any questions related to any accommodation for testing, note taking, reading, etc., please contact me as soon as possible. You must contact the Disability Resources for Students office (901.678.2880, drs@memphis.edu, <https://www.memphis.edu/drs/>) to officially request such accommodations / services.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Date	Lecture Material	Text
Week 1 (1/24)	Ethical Concepts and Theories	Ch. 2
Week 2 (1/31)	Critical Reasoning Skills	Ch. 3
Week 3 (2/7)	Critical Reasoning Skills	Ch. 3
Week 4 (2/14)	Professional Ethics	Ch. 4
Week 5 (2/21)	Professional Ethics. Privacy and Cyberspace	Ch. 4, 5
Week 6 (2/28)	Privacy and Cyberspace, continued	Ch. 5
Week 7 (3/7)	Midterm Exam	
Week 8 (3/14)	<i>NO CLASS – Spring Break</i>	
Week 9 (3/21)	Security in Cyberspace	Ch. 6
Week 10 (3/28)	Security in Cyberspace, Cybercrime	Ch. 6, 7
Week 11 (4/4)	Cybercrime, continued	Ch. 7
Week 12 (4/11)	Intellectual Property Disputes	Ch. 8
Week 13 (4/18)	Intellectual Property Disputes, continued	Ch. 8
Week 14 (4/25)	Regulating Commerce and Speech	Ch. 9

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 2nd, 2025, 10:30am - 12:30pm

See the full final exam schedule here: <https://www.memphis.edu/registrar/calendars/>

Tentative Exam Topics:

- Midterm Exam : Chapters 2-5
- Final Exam: Comprehensive, Chapters 2-9 (with emphasis on Chapters 6-9)