

COSC 311 – Digital Technologies in Society

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Office Hours: COSC Library 5 :30 pm to 6 :30 pm

Or

Room 420, 5:30 pm to 6 :30 pm

Course Description

Foundations and Impacts of computing and digital technologies, including history, applications, and societal impacts. (UG)

Prerequisite: Junior status and either two science courses or one math course and one science course. *General Education Category:* [GenEd II.A.2](#) Science, Technology, and Modern Society.

Materials Needed:

- Word processing software (available by TU)
- Presentation software (available by TU)
- Email account (available by TU)
- Assigned textbook

Course Rationale

This course is a General Education Course Category of IIA2- Science, Technology and Modern Society. Students will be exposed to issues dealing with technological change. Students are expected to enhance their study habits, their research skills, their critical thinking, and their reflective judgment. They should come to appreciate diverse points of view, be able to find both “pro” and “con” sides on an issue, and be able to state orally and in writing the various positions on the issue.

Major Learning Objectives

The goals of this course are to study three areas of this field:

1. The historical perspective on the development of computing and digital technologies
2. The underlying scientific principles supporting these technologies
3. The current applications of the technologies and their impact on modern society
4. Write coherent and well-structured critiques of situations.
5. Work and interact collaboratively in groups about key technical issues.

Teaching Method

The course is designed to provide a mix of lecture, in-class discussion, student participation, and student involvement in in-class exercises, use of working groups, and other constructivist methods

The students overall will have a chance to **construct** new knowledge from the information in the course readings and lectures. The students will actively acquire, organize, evaluate, apply and extend this knowledge throughout the course.

Students should plan to read a lot, keep up with current events, and to participate in class and discussions.

Grading

Grading: There are a number of projects, quizzes, and exercises to do throughout the course. A letter grade will be assigned as follows:

A	95-100	B-	80-82.9	D	63-66.9
A-	90-94.9	C+	75-79.9	D-	60-62.9
B+	87-89.9	C	70-74.9	F	Below 60
B	83-86.9	D+	67-69.9		

In accordance with action taken by the University Senate fall 2005, the grade of C- has been suspended for three years and may not be used as part of the grading scheme.

To explain the grading scale for this course, please note the [Towson University Grading Policy](#) .

Grade	Grade Points Per Unit
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00

D+	1.33
D	1.00
F	0.00
FX	0.00

Note, there is no A+ and there is also no C- grade.

NOTE: The student must complete all lecture, and case study assignments, and give all presentations to earn a grade above B+ in this class.

Two Exams (mid-term and Final at 20% each)	=40%
Two Projects (Written Report and/or Talk at 20% each)	=40%
Homework/Quizzes	=20%

Team Project #1 and #2: Each team will prepare a short written report and will give a short talk of less than 15 minutes on the topic. Each topic will be approved in advanced.

Repeat Policy

Students may not repeat a course more than once without prior permission of the Academic Standards Committee.

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism have no place in the academic environment. **DO NOT TURN IN WORK THAT HAS BEEN COPIED FROM SOMEBODY ELSE. DO NOT LET YOUR WORK BE COPIED.**

Examples of cheating include: reading from unauthorized sources or from another students work during a quiz, copying another person's work from their diskette or from a hard drive, typing another person's work, and, in general, not taking responsibility for one's own learning. Make sure that you are doing your own work.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism on laboratory assignments or examinations will result in a score of zero for the particular work, a possible F grade for the course, and/or dismissal from the University.

A statement on cheating and plagiarism distributed to all students may be found in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#), Appendix F.

Attendance Policy