

CMPS 4991: Senior Seminar SYLLABUS

Catalog Description:

A self-study in the ethical, legal, and social issues related to computing. Students research, prepare, and present a talk on a related issue. Students also prepare for their career and the computer science major field test.

Instructor:	Mika Morgan, Ph.D.
Office:	Bolin Hall, Office 124E
Office Phone:	(940) 397-4189
E-mail:	mika.morgan@msutexas.edu
Office Hours:	MWF 9-10 am & R 1-3 pm, or by appointment

Course Prerequisite:

Must be in last year prior to graduation.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will develop and practice job preparation skills (resume writing, interviewing, etc.).
2. Students will study a variety of current controversial legal, social, cultural and ethical issues related to computing.
3. Students will select and research a topic.
4. Students will prepare and present lectures to groups of students and faculty.
5. Students will prepare for and take the ETS Exit Exam.

Course Evaluation:

Resume Resume (draft and final), 10 pts.	10 pts
Professional Development 3 activities, 8 pts. each 1 personal reflection, 6 pts.	30 pts
NTASC Topic selection and abstract, 5 pts. Slides (draft and final), 10 pts. Peer reviews, 5 pts. Presentation (practice and final), 10 pts.	30 pts
ETS Exit Exam 5 topic reviews, 4 pts. each Pass Exit Exam, 10 pts.	30 pts

Professional Development:

All students are required to complete **three** out-of-class professional development activities, such as attending career fairs, interviewing for jobs, completing professional certifications, etc. Students will make and revise a resume and advance their online professional presence through platforms such as LinkedIn and Handshake.

NTASC:

All students are required to make an individual presentation at the North Texas Area Student Conference (NTASC) at MSU on **Saturday, April 18th**, and to attend the entire conference from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students will present during one session and volunteer for one session. Lunch and door prizes are provided.

Students who do not present at the conference will receive a grade of 'F' in the course.

Any anticipated conflicts with the date MUST be discussed with Dr. Morgan by February 1.

Exit Exam:

The ETS Computer Science Exit Exam is a graduation requirement.

It will be administered on **Friday, May 1st** at 12:30 p.m. (Location TBD). The exam lasts about 2.5 hours. Any student that does not pass the Exit Exam will lose one letter grade from the course. An award of \$100 is presented to the student with the highest score. Additional prizes may also be awarded.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory in a seminar course. Although student attendance is not calculated in the grade, attendance will be taken each day. If a student misses class, they must complete an equivalent activity on their own time to earn the lecture credit. If a student is absent three consecutive classes without notifying the instructor, a report will be submitted to the Dean of Students and the student may be dropped from the class.

Students are expected to be in the classroom when class begins and to stay the entire time. Documentation is required for excused course absences (MSU related activities, job interviews, medical absences, etc.)

Late Policy:

In-class activities are dependent on the assignments being complete and submitted before class starts. Because of this, no late work is accepted.

Behavior in the Classroom:

Students are to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Electronic devices should be silenced, and there should not be off-topic conversation while the instructor is lecturing. Disruptive students may be asked to leave the room and forfeit the lecture points for that day.

Several activities require giving feedback to other students. Criticism should always be constructive, professional, and focused on course material (never personal).

Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures:

Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons *or generators*, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting and paraphrasing, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). The Department of Computer Science has adopted the following policy related to cheating (academic misconduct). The policy will be applied to all instances of cheating on assignments and exams as determined by the instructor of the course.

- 1st instance of cheating in a course: The student will be assigned a non-replaceable grade of zero for the assignment, project or exam. *In addition, the student will receive a one letter grade reduction in course, if the grade doesn't result in a grade reduction.*
- 2nd instance of cheating in a course: The student will receive a grade of F in course & immediately be removed from course.
- All instances of cheating will be reported to the Department Chair and, in the case of graduate students, to the Department Graduate Coordinator.

Note: Letting a student look at your work is collusion and is academic misconduct!

See the [MSU Student Handbook](#) for more information on the academic misconduct policy.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from the University's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation(s) to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided. For additional information, contact the Disability Support Office in Clark Student Center 168. Phone: (940) 397-4140.