

CMPS 4991 – Seminar– Spring 2025
Dr. Catherine Stringfellow, Pierce Hall 149, 940-397-4578
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Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30am, T 11-12, 2-3pm, R 11-12, 3-4pm & by Appt

Course 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 career and a major field test. Prerequisite(s): Must be in last year prior to graduation.

Attendance

The class meets for 120 minutes, one day per week from 1:00 to 3:00 on Friday. Be on time and be prepared. 5-points are deducted from your final grade for each absence. To lower the reduction to 2 points, excuses must be made in writing within 1 week of the missed class and an assignment covering the missed material must be submitted to the Makeup folder in D2L. All excuses are subject to approval. Arriving late is not acceptable. Any student arriving late by 5 minutes or more will receive a 1-point grade deduction. Dr. Stringfellow's watch will be the official time.

There are 5 primary goals in this course:

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

Grading

The grading policies outlined below are strictly enforced. Exceptions are made only in very unusual circumstances. Each student begins with 100 points.

The course grade is assigned based on the number of points a student has at the end of the term. 100-90 points - A, 89-80 points - B, etc. Deductions are made for missed deadlines on written assignments. (See calendar for deadlines and assignments.) To be considered "on-time", an assignment must be received by 11:59pm on the due date. PDFs of assignments (unless otherwise specified) are turned in to drop boxes in D2L. Unless otherwise stated, assignments may NOT be given or emailed to Dr. Stringfellow. (Exceptions are if you are absent from class or have permission for extenuating circumstances.) Lost or undelivered e-mail is the responsibility of the sender. One (1) point will be deducted from your final grade for each day late per assignment. Incomplete or incorrectly completed assignments will be returned to the student for completion and will be subject to late penalties. Failure to complete an assignment will result in a 10- point deduction on the final grade. Extra credit opportunities may be assigned to replace lost points. ****Dropping of a Student:** If at any time prior to the presentation practice a student's points fall below **70**, the student will either (1) drop the course or (2) be dropped with an 'F'.

All students are required to make a presentation at the **North Texas Area Student Conference (NTASC)** at MSU on **Saturday, April 25th** and to attend the entire conference from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 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. Stringfellow in person by February 1.**

The **Computer Science Exit Exam** is a graduation requirement. It will be administered on Friday, May 31 at 12:30 p.m. (Location TBD). The exam lasts about 2.5 hours. A minimum grade is established. Those not achieving the minimum grade will lose 1 letter grade from the course grade. An award of \$100 is presented to the student with the highest score at the Computer Science – Math Awards BBQ.