



Course Syllabus: The Digital Culture
MCOSME College
CMPS 1023
Fall 2025

Contact Information

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Course Description

Explore the history, current state, and cultural impact of the digital world. This course will prepare students to understand and relate to others in an increasingly online world and be productive members of a global digital society. Topics include history of computing from a global perspective, accessibility and the digital divide, computer security issues, evaluation of online materials, big data and the need for high performance computing, and an introduction to using productivity software and programming constructs to analyze and communicate these issues.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

No text is required for this course. A USB or online data storage will be necessary for saving documents. Supplemental material will be provided (e.g. articles and web sites relating to cultural digital issues). In addition, Open Educational Resource (OER) may be utilized. OERs are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use or re-purposing by others. OERs include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge. ([Hewlett Report](#))

Grading

Semester Exams (3)	60%
Assignments	15%
Programs	15%
Final Project/Presentation	10%

Course Content: The material includes text reading assignments, lectures, programs, and homework. Students are responsible for all material regardless of attendance. **Late Work**

Quizzes/Homework will not be accepted late. Programs will be accepted late up to one week after the due date with a penalty of 5 points per day.

Make-up Work/Tests

Quizzes/Homework cannot be made up. In the event a test is missed, a make-up will be allowed if the student makes arrangements before the graded tests are returned (usually the class day after the test is administered).

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Office hours, TASP Center 1st floor of Moffett Library; MSU CMPS Slack Channel, Google

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic misconduct is cheating, collusion, and plagiarism: it is the act of using either published or unpublished source material of other students, persons, or generative AI (unless there are instructions that allow it), and must follow accepted techniques of crediting. The Department of Computer Science has adopted the following policy related to academic misconduct. The policy will be applied to all submission of work for credit as determined by the instructor of the course, e.g., assignments, quizzes and exams. (See below for link to MSU definitions.)

- 1st instance of cheating in the program: The student will be assigned a non-replaceable grade of zero for the assignment, project or exam. If the final grade does not result in a one letter grade reduction, the student will receive a one letter grade reduction in the course.
- Further instances of cheating in any course within the program: The student will receive a grade of F in the course & be removed from the course.
- All instances of cheating will be reported to the Department Chair, the MCOSME Dean, the Dean of Graduate Students, if a graduate student, and the Office of Rights and Responsibilities, who may decide at their own discretion to impose a stiffer sanction based on knowledge of other instances of cheating at MSU Texas.

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

See Also: [MSU Student Handbook](#): Appendix E: Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Attending class is one of the primary keys to doing well in this class. Students with excessive absences may be reported to the dean of students and may receive a grade of F in the class. There is no distinction made between excused and unexcused.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the law, MSU provides academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities must be registered with Disability Support Services before classroom accommodations can be provided. The DSS office is located in Clark Student Center, Room 168, phone 397-4140. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Smoking/Tobacco Policy - College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy - To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry - Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying

handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Recording of Class Lectures

Permission must be requested in writing and obtained from the instructor before recording of class lectures. If permission is granted, the recording may only be used by the student making the recording. Recordings (or any class materials) may NOT be posted on any internet source without written permission of the instructor. Failure to adhere to the policy may result in removal from the course with a grade of F, or other appropriate punishment.

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.