



Course Syllabus: The Digital Culture
McCoy College of Math, Science and Engineering
CMPS 1023 Section X10
Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Catherine Stringfellow
Office: Bolin 124J
Office hours: MWF 10-11:30am; TR 9-10am; T 2-3pm; & by Appt
Office phone: (940) 397-4578
E-mail: catherine.stringfellow@msutexas.edu

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

None

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Tutoring is available in **BO 115 Tutor Lab** and the **Office of Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP)** in Moffett Library. A tutor may assist with programs and homework for computer science classes. The tutor will not do your work.

Course Evaluation

Table 1: Percentage of total grade.

Assignments	Percentage
Quizzes, Homework, Discussions	20
Programming Projects	20
3 tests	45
Final Project	15

Table 2: Final grade scale.

Grade	Percentage
A	90 to 100%
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	55 to 69
F	Less than 55

Course and Department Policies

Attendance

Attending class is a primary key to success. Although student attendance is not calculated in the grade, attendance will be noted. Attendance in an online class is counted based on D2L participation and turning in assignments. If a student misses three consecutive assignments without notifying the instructor, a report will be submitted to the Dean of Students and the student may be dropped from the class. There is no distinction made between excused and unexcused absences.

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.

Technical difficulty will not be considered a valid reason for an extension on submitting online materials.

Computers are available on campus in various areas, as well as the Academic Success Center. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. There is also a student help desk available to you.

Make Up Tests

- For planned absences: exams may be taken early *by prior arrangement*.
- For unplanned absences: a missed exam can be replaced by the final exam grade.
- Missed quizzes may not be made up.

Late Policy

Assignments and programs will be accepted late up to one week after the due date with a penalty of 5 points per day. Work will not be accepted after one week past the deadline. Quizzes will not be accepted late.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

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 within the program: The student will be assigned a non-replaceable grade of zero for the assignment, project or exam. If the final grade in the course, does not result in a one letter grade reduction, the student will receive a one letter grade reduction in 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.

University Policies

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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) exists 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 Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

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 prohibits 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 has 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 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 a video that may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Grade appeals are made to the Dean of the College in writing. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#).

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

Important Dates

- See [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **November 23, 2026**
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)