Please read the entire syllabus and *ask any questions you may have*. Then, please complete and sign this page and submit within 4 class meetings. No assignments will be graded if this document is not returned in a timely fashion. Thank you.

**XIV. In Conclusion:** I have read and understand this syllabus as well as the University Guide for Computer Ethics. I agree to comply with the conditions stipulated in both documents. I have a clear understanding of ethical and legal use of my computer accounts and will use them legally and ethically.

Please sign below:

__________________________________________________________________________ (signature)  
__________________________________________________________________________ (date)
Disclaimer: This course is currently under revision. You will be provided with an updated syllabus at the beginning of the semester.

COSC 3400.002: SKILLS FOR COMPUTING PROFESSIONALS

Fall 2014
Course Syllabus

Course Information:

Instructor: Professor Binkerd
Office: CI 320
Phone: 825-2397
Email: carol.binkerd@tamucc.edu
Office Hours: TBA
Class Time: Mon/Wed 11:00-11:50
           Mon/Wed 12:00-01:15
Location: CI 226

Textbooks:

Author: Strunk
Title: Elements of Style
ISBN: 9780205632640

Author: Quinn
Title: Ethics for Information Age, 5th edition
ISBN: 0132855534

Author: Shelly/Vermant
Discovering Computers & Microsoft Office 2010
ISBN: 978-0-538-47393-4

Materials Needed:

Several folders
Money on Sand Dollar ID card
Flash drives
Others will be emailed to your islander email account.

Course Description:
This course focuses on the professional skills that computer scientists will need to be successful
in their careers and lives. There are two key areas of study, communication skills needed by computer scientists and their ethical responsibilities. Communication skills will include writing and giving oral presentations about computer science topics and life skills. Ethical issues will be explored from a computer science perspective.

**Prerequisites:**

ENGL 1302

**Required Student Outcomes:**

1. Be familiar with a professional code of ethics (such as ACM or IEEE) and apply to computing-related ethical situations.
2. Demonstrate effective oral communication skills with a range of audiences.
3. Demonstrate effective written communication skills with a range of audiences.
4. Can recognize and describe social issues related to computing.
5. Analyze the local impact of computing on individuals, organizations and society.
6. Analyze the global impact of computing on individuals, organizations and society.

**Major Topics:**

Professional ethics, privacy, written and verbal communication skills

**Course Grades:**

Grades:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F < 60

Many of the assignments will involve class and group participation. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. For each class that a student is late or does not attend, the final semester average will be docked 2%.

**Class Policies:**

**Attendance and Student Conduct:**

Absences. The student is required to attend class. If the student cannot attend class that day, it is the student’s responsibility to contact another class member to obtain hand-outs and information about the content that was covered. Additionally, it is the student’s responsibility to learn the material that was covered. Do not contact the professor.

Many of the assignments will involve class and group participation. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. For each class that a student is late or does not attend, the final semester average will be docked 2%.

Contact. All contact will be via the student’s Islander email account. Please check often
Professional Behavior, Good Manners and Work Skills

Students are expected to have good manners, show respect for themselves and others, and not engage in any behaviors that are disruptive or disrespectful to others. Insubordination and unprofessional conduct including sexual harassment, use of inappropriate language &/or gestures, creating a hostile environment, and so on will not be tolerated. Students who cannot conduct themselves properly will fail the course, and may be referred for counseling, requested to leave the classroom, and other. If you have any questions about what constitutes inappropriate behavior, language and so on, it is your responsibility to make and attend an appointment during the professor’s office hours.

Students are required to be on time to class. Violation of this policy will result in the student not receiving hand-outs, and possibly in having the student requested to leave the class/lab, and other**. The clock in the classroom/lab (or my watch) will be used to determine the correct time.

A student will be considered to be on time if the student has already obtained a copy of that day’s hand-outs and is seated and ready to begin class. Walking into the classroom at the minute that the class begins, is not being on time.

Students may not have headphones, laptops, pagers, cell phones, (and so on) out during class. Students must turn off all pagers, cell phones, listening devices… before entering the classroom/lab and keep them turned off during class/lab. Violation of this policy may result in the article being confiscated and it will be returned to the student on the day of the final exam.

Students are not to speak while the professor or a recognized student is speaking. Violation of this policy may result in the student being requested to leave the class/lab for the day or a longer period of time, and other. If a student wants to be recognized to ask a pertinent question, he/she should raise his/her hand and wait until the professor calls upon him/her.

Students are not to use class time to discuss personal issues. If a student has a personal issue, he/she should make an appointment with the professor to discuss this during office hours.

Unprofessional, inappropriate behaviors will lead to the student’s final average being deducted points. Examples of disruptive behaviors are entering the classroom/lab late, speaking when the professor or another student is speaking, allowing the pager or cell to emit noise during class. Therefore, it is possible for a student to fail the course, even if he/she has a passing average on exams and labs. So, if you are late one day, speak while the professor is speaking three times in one class period on the second day, and on the third day, have your cell phone go off, you will have accrued 5 infractions, and lose 10 points off your semester average.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips and so on.

Cheating. Students are expected to produce original work. Plagiarism and cheating are not acceptable. Violation of this policy may result in all students involved receiving a 0% on the assignment and/or failing the course. And so on.

General but Important Stuff

Students should expect to spend a minimum of 2-3 hours outside class for every hour in class. So, for this class, outside study time should be a minimum of 12 hours per week.

Students are expected to begin assignments immediately. Do not procrastinate.

Students are expected to be prepared for class. This includes being on time, having required materials ready, having reading and written assignments completed before class begins. The professor will not assign specific chapters or pages to read from the textbook. Students are expected to read the related chapters (or pages) that correspond to the topics on the tentative agenda before the topics are covered in class.

Students are expected to discuss dropping the class with the professor during office hours. The student is often not clear about his/her current standing in the class. One bad grade is not fatal. Also, the student often feels that he/she is the only one who is confused when the majority of students feel the same way.

In addition to learning the course content, the student is expected to learn professional behavior that will be appropriate in the workplace. Once employed, you will be expected to arrive on time for work, have projects and presentations prepared by the required completion date. In this field, you will often be required to work with teams. Also, if you repeatedly engage in unprofessional behavior, you will be fired. So, a part of your education is developing strong workplace skills.

Resources

Students are expected to seek assistance from the computer science programming lab assistants before coming to the professor. The programming lab assistants are located on the third floor of the CI building. Get familiar with these locations and sign-in whenever you seek their assistance.

Students are assumed to be proficient in the following: note-taking, time-management, study skills, test-taking skills, impulse control, anger management, interpersonal communication. If a student needs assistance in
developing or enhancing these skills, he/she should make an appointment with the counseling center immediately since these skills take time to learn.

Also, if the student has language difficulties, poor comprehension skills and/or special needs, the student should contact the Student Disabilities Office.

Another resource the student should use for math, writing and so on is the academic success center.

Assignments:

Late assignments are not accepted. Please submit before the due date.

Some of your assignments will be completed and/or graded in class. No make-ups will be given. Therefore, being late to class or absent that day will result in 0% credit.

Submission. Guidelines for submission and due dates will be emailed to your Islander account. Policies about late submission will also be emailed to your Islander account.

Failure to correctly submit assignments will result in their not being graded.

Grading is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>50 or lower</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignments will be returned (during class) as soon as possible. If you think you submitted an assignment but do not receive one when the assignments are returned, OR you feel there is a mistake in the grade, you must email the professor within 24 hours of that graded assignment being returned. You must make an appointment and confer with the professor about this assignment within one week of its being returned. Failure to do so will result in the original grade standing.

Extra-Credit/Make-up for Assignments:

Availability: Only students who consistently display professional behavior are eligible.

Assignments: With the professor’s written approval, the student may complete an extra-credit assignment to replace one assignment. Students must write complete program specifications and present them to the professor during office hours. The professor may approve or deny any assignment presented.

Computer Accounts:

Misuse (illegal or unethical) of any computer account will result in the student receiving an F in this class.

The student will receive many directions and information via email. The student is responsible for checking email on a regular basis. (If you do not know how to use email, learn ASAP.) The professor may (or may not) add alternative email addresses to the mailing list. But, the professor will not know if other servers are down and the student will still be held responsible for the email that has been sent on Islander.

Other:

Absence Documentation. If you have documentation that you feel provides a valid reason for class absences, you must submit your documentation to the Office for Student Success and Engagement. This office will then notify all your professors. Depending upon the class grading policies, you may or not be permitted to complete work missed due to these absences.

Academic Advising. The College of Science and Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Advisor will design a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s advisors are located in the Center for Instruction, 3rd floor.

Academic Continuity. In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the
closings of the physical campus. However, the student needs to ensure that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contact.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism. University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in your failing the course.

Chain of Command. If you have an issue related to this course, your first step is to set an appointment with the professor to express your concerns. If your concern is not resolved, then follow the chain of command. If you do not know the chain, then please ask for clarification.

Classroom/Professional Behavior/Civility. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, and so on.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Disabilities Accommodations. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Dropping a Class. I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. 4/10/2014 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Grade Appeal Process. (College of Science and Engineering Version) As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriate nature of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/Grade/Appeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

Papers and Presentations. Must use APA or MLA format for bibliography/works cited. Must use Chicago style footnotes. Use Word 2010 default options for all else.
For formal, professional presentation(s) must be professionally dressed or 0% credit. Papers/presentations must follow guidelines supplied or 0% credit. These guidelines will be emailed to you.

**XVI. In Conclusion:** I have read and understand this syllabus as well as the University Guide for Computer Ethics. I agree to comply with the conditions stipulated in both documents. I have a clear understanding of ethical and legal use of my computer accounts and will use them legally and ethically.

Please sign below:


**XIV: Tentative Agenda.** Will be emailed to you. Updates will be sent via Islander account. Students should complete all textbook reading and review exercises before the class meeting.

A sample schedule follows. This is not the final schedule.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Work Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2    | Questions on Career Folder, Ethics Paper  
      Ethical scenario, Short speeches |
| 3    | Critique ethics papers  
      CASA, Writing Center |
| 4    | Interview questions  
      Bring Strunk textbook to class  
      Work in research groups  
      Begin research  
      Ethics papers due before 3:30 p.m. |
| 5    | Career Speaker - Jonathon Richter, Baytek International  
      All Major Career Fair, 10:00-2:00, Sign-up sheet  
      Career Folder due before 9:00 a.m.  
      Career Speaker - Jeremy Howard, USAA, CS 108  
      Career Speaker – Randy Sanchez, USAA |
| 6    | Short Speeches  
      Work in research groups  
      Folders due before 3:30 p.m. |
| 7    | Career Speaker - Steve Alves, TAMU-CC  
      Univ. Counseling Center- Theresa Sharpe, Workshop |
| 8    | Mock panel interview  
      Research day |
| 9    | Review research papers |
| 10   | Public Speaking exercise  
      Need Strunk book, journal every day from now on  
      TAMU-CC: Employee Rights. Sam Ramirez, not confirmed |
| 11   | Journal due before 3:30 p.m.  
      Everyone must resubmit journal  
      Formal Professional Presentations  
      Final copy of research paper due. Before 3:30 p.m.  
      Formal Professional Presentations |
| 12   | Formal Professional Presentations  
      Binkerd- Real Estate Investor Secrets  
      Complete evaluations of class |
| 13   | Last Class Day-  
      Binkerd - Negotiating Salaries/Raises  
      Real Estate Investor Secrets |
| 14   | Final Exam: 1:45-4:15  
      Professional presentations |