

CMSC 304 Computer Ethics

Dr. Cynthia Matuszek

Adapted from courses by Dr. M desJardins, Dr. E. Birrane, and others

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Today's class

- Introduction
- Review of syllabus and schedule
- Academic honesty policy
- Expectations
- Team formation

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My research topics

- Dr. Cynthia Matuszek ("Dr M")
- Artificial intelligence
 - How to get computers to behave in ways that we consider "intelligent"
- Robotics
 - How can we go from industrial robots to useful robots in human environments? (Schools, cars, homes...)
- Natural Language Processing
 - How can computers learn to understand and speak human languages (English)?
- Machine learning

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Major sources of information

- Syllabus: <http://tiny.cc/304-syllabus>
- Schedule: <http://tiny.cc/304-schedule>
- Academic integrity: <http://tiny.cc/304-integrity>
- Blackboard

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Course syllabus (in some order...)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • COVID-19 | • Classroom policies |
| • Academic integrity | • Absentee/makeup policies |
| • My expectations | • Harassment and inclusion help |
| • Harassment policy (don't) | • Topics |
| • Communication | • Retriever Essentials |
| • Coursework and grading | |

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COVID-19

- Class during a pandemic comes with additional expectations
- 1. Be respectful of your own and others' health**
 - **Stay masked** (mouth and nose) during *any* class interaction
 - Class, office hours, *and* lab
 - Be sensible about exposure vectors and don't expose others
 - **When sick, stay home**
 - If home for 2+ classes, get in touch and we'll work out the details
 - 2. Communicate, communicate, communicate!**
 - Prioritize your health and the safety of others
 - **Life right now is not "business as usual."** We'll work it out.

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COVID-19 university statement on masks

- UMBC has set clear expectations for masking while on campus that include the requirement that **you must wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth in all classrooms regardless of your vaccination status**. This is to protect your health and safety as well as the health and safety of your classmates, instructor, and the university community. Anyone attending class without a mask or wearing one improperly will be asked by the instructor to put on a mask or fix their mask in the appropriate position. **Any student that refuses to comply with this directive will be asked to leave the classroom immediately** and failure to do so will result in the instructor requesting the assistance of the University Police.
- Students who refuse to wear masks may be referred to Student Conduct and Community Standards and may face disciplinary action for violations of the Code of Student Conduct, specifically, Rule 2: Behavior Which Jeopardizes the Health or Safety of Self or Others and Rule 16: Failure to Comply with the Request of a University Official. UMBC's on-campus safety protocols, including masking requirements, are subject to change in response to the evolving situation with Covid-19.

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TL;DR:
It goes over your nose.
No mask, no class.

Classroom policies

- Be courteous to classmates and instructors.
- No devices in use except when specified.
 - You don't learn as much.
 - People around you don't learn as much.
 - Read tiny.cc/devices-in-class, then ask to talk about it
- No food in class (obviously).
- Masks must be worn the entire time.

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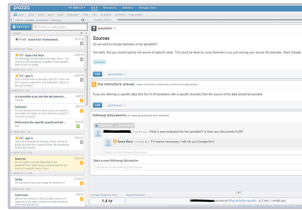
Grading

- Class participation, attendance, and in-class exercises: **30%**
- Online reading journal (individual): **10%**
- Midterm exam (individual): **10%**
- Ethical analyses (group): **20%**
- In-class presentation(s) (group): **10%**
- Final research paper (group): **20%**

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All about journals

- One entry per person, per topic
- Post on the Blackboard thread:
 - Read the papers
 - Read the thread so far
 - Post something new
- Summary, question, answer to a question, ...
- Usually 1-2 paragraphs
- You can drop 3 journal scores



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Reading a set of articles on a topic

- What do they say?
 - Central question / problem the paper addresses
 - Answer or conclusion
 - Approach / how do they do it
- What do you think?
 - Do you like this paper?
 - What do you like **most** about it?
 - What do you like least about it?
- Questions
 - What did you not understand?
 - What do you want clarification about?



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Academic integrity

- Instructor's responsibilities:
 - Be respectful
 - Be fair
 - Be available
- Students' responsibilities:
 - Be respectful
 - Do not cheat, plagiarize, or lie, or help anyone else do so
 - Do not interfere with other students' academic activities
- Everyone's responsibilities:
 - Promote an enjoyable, learning-focused environment
 - Prioritize health and safety

Before next class, you must:
 Read the policy: <http://tiny.cc/3o4-integrity>
 Watch the video: tiny.cc/aci-video

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Academic integrity policy

- "By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community, in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. **Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong.** Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal."

[UMBC's Undergraduate Council and Provost's Office]

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Academic integrity policy

"I hereby assume the responsibilities of an engaged member in a scholarly and civic community in which academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. It is my active participation that affirms these principles and gives them true meaning as well as value in my education. I realize that by committing acts of dishonesty I hurt myself and place an indelible mark on the reputation of UMBC. Therefore, I will not cheat, fabricate materials, plagiarize, or help another to undertake such acts of academic dishonesty, nor will I protect those who engage in acts of academic dishonesty."

[UMBC's Undergraduate Council and Provost's Office]

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- Integrity is cultural. Know what it means here.
- ANY copying is plagiarism, even a single sentence.
- You *must* read the academic integrity policy.
- You *must* watch <http://tiny.cc/aci-video>.

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Integrity: Plagiarism

- Representing someone else's work as your own is plagiarism.
 - What if the reference is in the bibliography?
 - If you didn't explicitly quote the text you used and cite the source where you used the text, it is plagiarism.
 - What if I only use some of the words?
 - Scattering some of your own words and rephrasing isn't enough. If the ideas are not restated entirely in your own words, it is plagiarism.

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Integrity: Plagiarism

- More Examples
 - The introduction and background material are borrowed; all of the research is original.
 - If somebody else's words appear in any document that you claim is written by you, it is plagiarism.
 - It was a draft or not an official assignment
 - If you represented somebody else's words as your own, even in an informal context, it is plagiarism.
 - "But the professor told me to use that source!"
 - Unless you explicitly quote from a source with proper citations, you must write your answers in your own words.

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Integrity: Abetting

- This includes putting someone's name on something when they didn't work on it.
 - "This is just everyone on our team" is wrong.
- Know what your project partners are doing.
 - Their cheating can hurt you.
- Helping another student to cheat, falsify, or plagiarize will result in you receiving the same penalty.

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Integrity: What To Do

- You can **always** bring it to me.
- Cheating from you / in your group / etc.:
 - You **may** talk to them about it first
 - Unless it's too late (it's been turned in, the test is over)
 - Then you are abetting unless you report
 - Some people may get sneakier instead of improving
- You **do not have to** talk to anyone but me.

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Integrity: Penalties

- Penalties depend on the offense
- The **minimum penalties for a first offense** are:
 - A full letter grade off your final grade
 - A zero on the assignment
- Additional penalties may include:
 - Failing the class without possibility of dropping it
 - Suspension or expulsion from the university
- A second offense will result in failing the class.
 - Additional penalties may be levied.

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Expectations: general

- Do your reading journals!
- This will be used for online discussions and announcements
- Attend class regularly
 - If you will miss class for a good reason (athletic commitment, religious holiday, serious illness), drop me an email in advance
 - Oversleeping, getting to campus too late to park, having work for another class, or going on a vacation are not good reasons
- Complete the assigned reading before coming to class

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Expectations: discussions

- Participate in the online discussion (this is part of your grade!)
- Participate actively in class discussions (as part of your team and as an individual in overall discussions)
- Let other people participate, and listen attentively
- Be respectful and courteous of your instructor and fellow students

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Communication

- Use Blackboard for general questions
- When you email, **always** email the professor **and the TA**
 - This keeps your responses from being late or lost
- Stay in contact with your team members
 - Several times a semester we will fill out surveys about team performance
 - Team members who do not contribute will not get the same grade

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Harassment policy

- We discuss some hot-button topics in this class
- Treat everyone and every comment with respect
- Be respectful of your colleagues and professor
- We can disagree without being unpleasant

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Discussion topics

- The first few lectures will be an overview of ethical topics
 - Communication
 - Decision-making
 - Major ethical frameworks
- After that, we will switch to topics
 - Cryptocurrency
 - Social media
 - Bias in machine learning
 - Identity theft
 - Dating apps
- Each group will work on a list of topics and will choose readings for one

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Retriever Essentials

- Retriever Essentials is a partnership that addresses food insecurity in the UMBC community. Free bags of non-perishable food and personal care products can be anonymously picked up.
- **Food Bags:**
 - To order personalized free bags of food, please complete this [form](#). When your order is filled, you may pick it up from the 24-hour Campus Police Station. Address: UMBC Police Station 1000 Hilltop Circle Baltimore, MD 21250. Special accommodations for home delivery are available on a case-by-case basis.
- **Save-A-Swipe:**
 - Save-A-Swipe creates a pool of meals swipes that become available to UMBC students who have been identified by trained staff as food insecure. Each swipe constitutes one meal.
- **Food Zones:**
 - There are also several locations throughout campus where you can pick up pre-packaged bags of non-perishable foods. These food zones include: The Campus Police Station, OCA Mocha, The Women's Center, Counseling Center, Mosaic Center, Off-Campus Student Services, Honors College, Residential Life Office, and the Pride Center

Visit <https://retrieveressentials.umbc.edu/> to learn more.

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Icebreaker

- Social media: good thing or bad thing?

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For next time

- Think about discussion topics
- Read <http://tiny.cc/304-integrity>

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