



University
of Regina



Faculty of
Science

CS 280 – RISK AND REWARD IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Territorial acknowledgement: The University of Regina is situated on the territories of the nêhiyawak, Anihšīnāpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation. The Regina campus is on Treaty 4 lands, and Saskatoon classes are on Treaty 6 lands.

Instructor: Daryl Hepting

Format: In-Person

Lecture: CL 110

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 13:00 – 14:15

January 6, 2026 – April 9, 2026

Website: <https://urcourses.uregina.ca/course/view.php?id=39771>

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesdays, 13:00 – 15:00

(in-person in the CS Department and remotely through Zoom)

Contact: using UR Courses e-mail

Teaching Assistant: Julia Hu (Julia)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 14:30 – 15:30

(in-person in the CS Department and remotely through Zoom)

Contact: using UR Courses e-mail

Course description:

Social context of computing. Case study: human-computer interfaces and their evaluation. Methods and tools of analysis. Professional and ethical responsibilities. Risks and liabilities of computer-based systems. Intellectual property, privacy and civil liberties. Professional communication. Sustainability. Cybercrime.

Expectations:

Technology provides many benefits to enjoy, but there are also risks. This course is an introduction to life in this digital world. At the conclusion of this course, you are expected to understand these risks and rewards, and the trade-offs involved. Attendance and participation in all aspects of the course are encouraged. Your attendance will indicate your agreement to be involved and to encourage the involvement of everyone in the class.

Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and CS 110

References:

- *Blown to Bits: Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness After the Digital Explosion, 2nd Edition* by Hal Abelson, Ken Ledeen, Harry Lewis, and Wendy Seltzer, Addison-Wesley, 2020 (online at <https://www.bitsbook.com/>)
- Various online sources

Grading :

- Wiki Editing 5%
- Participation 5%
- Weekly Quizzes 10%
- Assignments 10%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Final exam 50%

Students must pass the final exam to pass this course.

- Research Credit 2% (bonus, up to 2%)

Lecture syllabus: all dates and topics are subject to change, as necessitated by illness, closures, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Week of	Topics	Notes
January 5	Welcome, Social Context	First meeting January 6
January 12	Social Context	
January 19	Methods for Ethical Analysis	
January 26	Professional Ethics	
February 2	Intellectual Property	
February 9	Privacy and Civil Liberties	
February 16	Reading break – no classes	
February 23	Communication	
March 2	Sustainability	
March 9	History	.
March 16	Human Computer Interaction	
March 23	Economies of Computing	
March 30	Security Policies, Laws, and Computer Crimes	
April 6	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	Final exam Tuesday, 16 April 2026 14:00 – 17:00

Exam modality: The midterm and final exams will be closed-book, in-person, written exams.

Late assignments/missed exam policy:

Late assignments will be penalized by a percentage of the assigned grade. If the midterm exam is missed for approved reasons, extra weight will be placed on the final exam. If you miss the final exam, you will receive an NP as your final grade.

Attendance policy: Attendance at course meetings is expected. Students are encouraged to record their attendance on UR Courses.

Experiential Assignments:

This course uses assignments for the purpose of giving students an opportunity to gain experience with topics and methods. The weight of each assignment is small (2%), as an incentive for devoting effort and submitting in a timely manner. All submissions will be checked to ensure that a reasonable attempt has been made; if so, the 2% will be awarded. After the due date has passed, a solution will be presented to allow students to self-assess their learning. A more robust assessment of student learning will be conducted on the midterm and final exams. These exams will include questions that directly reference the assignments; as such, the assignments should be treated as study mechanisms for the exams. Students may work alone on the assignments using only the textbook, course material, and their own skill and ability. Students may work together, helping each other to learn. Students may employ GenAI tools to assist with their understanding of the topics. How, and with whom, students have completed their assignments must be indicated plainly in the submission – it will have no bearing on grade. Whether a student works alone, with others, or with the help of GenAI tools, each student will be responsible for their own learning and understanding of the course topics. Whether this learning has been effective will be assessed individually in the exams.

Academic integrity: Academic integrity requires students be honest. Assignments and exams are to help students learn; grades show how fully this goal is attained. Thus, all work and grades should result from a student's own understanding and effort.

Acts of academic misconduct violate academic integrity, and are considered serious offences by the University. Examples include, but are not limited to, cheating on tests or exams, plagiarizing, copying from others, and submitting the work of others as your own. Instances of academic misconduct will be reported to the Associate Dean Academic for investigation. Full details are provided in the [Undergraduate academic calendar](#). Students are encouraged to understand your obligations as a student, as well as your rights.

Accommodations: The Centre for Student Accessibility upholds the University's commitment to a diverse and inclusive learning environment by providing services and supports for students based on disability, religion, family status, and gender identity. Students who require these services are encouraged to contact the Centre for Student Accessibility to discuss the possibility of academic accommodations and other supports as early as possible. For further information, please email accessibility@uregina.ca.