CS 225 Introduction

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Syllabus on web site

• Web Site:
  http://faculty.cs.wwu.edu/reedyc/CS225_Summer_2006

• Speaking schedule: To Be Determined
Why take this class?

• Other than it is a requirement for your CS degree?
• Why does ABET want you to take this class?
• Why does the computer science external advisory board want a class like this?
Why take this class?

- Improve your public speaking
- Improve your writing skills
  - Read this: http://joelonsoftware.com/articles/CollegeAdvice.html
- Become aware of unethical and/or illegal business practices that you may encounter, or become entangled in, during your career.
Example

• Working at a software company
• Presenting to a “non-technical” audience
• You will be judged in large part by your ability to clearly present your ideas
• Promotions and raises will often hinge on peoples opinions are how well you can speak and present in public
Small company example

• Sales calls
• Asked questions about your products capabilities
• Asked advice on best practices
• Telling the truth while presenting your product in the best light
• Learning to field questions and give impromptu replies
Written skills

• Email based decisions
• The one paragraph summary
• Give me your recommendation
• Status reports
• Documentation:
  – Specifications
  – User documentation
Protecting yourself

• You will be asked to do things which are unethical
• You will be asked to do things that are illegal
Examples

Is it unethical to forward a joke to your friends using the company email?
What if this joke contains a racial slur or is overtly sexual in nature?
Could it be illegal?
Ignorance

• Protecting your companies long term interest by refusing to engage in and/or halting unethical or illegal practices
• Educating your boss, coworkers and your employees
Speaking Topics

For the next class (tomorrow!)

• Review the list of topics.

• Choose a topic for your first presentation and paper (the same topic for both)
  – You do not have to pick a topic from the list, but you must pick a topic on a social or ethical issue

• Come prepared with your topic tomorrow
  – I will set the presentation schedule tomorrow