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CSCI 315E.01: Computers, Ethics and Society

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CSCI 315E Computers, Ethics, and Society

Fall 2015, Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Joel Henry **Office:** SS408 **Phone:** 406.243.2218 **Email:** henryj@cs.umn.edu

Meeting time: Mon, Wed 4:10-5:30pm

Required Text: Tavani, H.T. 2011. *Ethics and Technology*, 4th edition, Wiley.

Office hours: I will have regular office hours on

Tuesday & Thursday from 2-3 ; Mon and Wed 2-3 and 5:30-6:00

I will also be happy to meet with you by appointment, or you can stop in anytime my door is open.

Course Description and Outcomes:

In this class, we will learn about ethical problems that computer scientists face, the codes of ethics of computing professional societies, legal issues involved in technology, and the social implications of computers, computing, and other digital technologies. During this class, you will:

- 1· Understand, identify, and apply different ethical philosophies, frameworks, and methodologies.
- 2· Identify and interpret the codes of professional conduct relating to the disciplines of computer science and software engineering.
- 3· Analyze the local and global impact of computing on individuals, organizations, and society.
- 4· Understand and apply the concepts and principles of moral thinking to problems relating to computing and digital technologies.
- 5· Improve your skills writing argumentative essays and pieces, and in critical thinking, analysis, and presentation.
- 6· Become familiar with a number of noteworthy essays written by influential researchers in the field of cyberethics.

Also note that this class satisfies the [UM upper-division writing requirement](#), ethical requirement, and Computer Science major requirement. This class focuses on the development of good oral and written communication skills.

Course Pre-requisites

- FOR 220 or other University approved lower-division writing course.
- Successful completion of the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Assessment (UDWPA). See

*** Note that these prerequisites are strictly upheld. If you do not have the pre-requisites satisfied, you must get prior approval from the Chair of the Department, Dr. Doug Raiford, before enrolling in this course.** Review the current course catalog (<http://www.umn.edu/catalog/acad/genreq/default.html>) to see what the University writing requirements are.

Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be evaluated as follows:

- Unannounced class discussion leadership: 10%
- Formal writing assignment, including revision: 35%
- Ethics Bowl: 10%
- Formal class presentation: 10%
- Final exam: 20%

- Attendance 10%
- Engagement in classroom activities, and **ATTITUDE** 5%

Important Dates not to be missed

- Special scheduled night class: Wednesday, November 19 from 6-9pm (location TBA)
- Final exam: Week of December 14, 2015

Policy on late work, missed exam, and missed in-class work

No late work or make-up work will be accepted without prior approval from instructor, including exams, papers, drafts, reading responses, and homework. If you miss an exam without prior approval from the instructor, you will receive a 0 on that exam. If you miss an in-class reading response, quiz, homework, exercise, presentation, or ethics bowl, you will receive a 0 on it. No make-up assignments for any of these items will be offered, so plan your semester schedule carefully, and attend all classes. Class attendance and participation will count towards your final grade.

Class conduct

Plagiarism on assignments, cheating on exams, or use of inappropriate language (oral and written) will not be tolerated. Offenders will be dealt with according to the [Student Conduct Code](#). If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism on written papers, ask. You must clearly cite any and all sources you use in your own paper. It is NOT OK to simply copy and paste what you find into your own paper and pass off that writing and those ideas as your own.

Additional class policies and information

- On-time attendance is expected for all schedule class periods and will count towards your overall class participation grade. Instructor will reduce credit for attendance if student is late to class.
- If you miss a class, you and you alone are responsible for the material covered. This includes handouts, schedule changes, and lecture notes. Every class period is important and may be on the final exam.
- Review the University policy on **incompletes** (<http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default.html>). In particular, note that incompletes can only be assigned when the student has “been in attendance and doing passing work up to three weeks before the end of the semester.” Incompletes will not be issued simply to prevent a failing grade.
- All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php
- Students with disabilities will receive reasonable modifications in this course. Your responsibilities are to request them from me with sufficient advance notice, and to be prepared to provide verification of disability and its impact from Disability Services for Students. Please speak with me after class or during my office hours to discuss the details. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

CSCI Ethics Schedule Fall 2015

Week #	Topic	Monday	Wednesday
1	Ch. 1 Introduction	Course Overview, Introduction to Computer Ethics Reading: http://www.uvu.edu/leadership/resources/ce.html LESSON 14	Introduction to CyberEthics Reading: Ch. 1, Tavani,
2	Ch. 2 Ethical Theory	Ethical Concepts and Ethical Theories Reading: Ch. 2, Tavani	Ethical Concepts and Ethical Theories Reading: Ch. 2, Tavani
3	Ch. 2 Ethical Theory	Writing Workshop How to write effectively, accurately, and succinctly Materials to be provided <i>Individual presentations</i>	Reading: Moor's "Just Consequentialism and Computing" (Ethical Theory) <i>Individual presentations</i>
4	Ch. 4 Professional Ethics	Professional Ethics Reading: Ch. 4, Tavani <i>Individual presentations</i>	Professional Ethics Reading: Ch. 4, Tavani <i>Individual presentations</i>
5	Ch. 5 Privacy	Professional Ethics Reading: Nissenbaum's "Computing & Accountability" <i>Individual presentations</i>	Privacy Reading: Ch. 5, Tavani <i>Long paper – Initial draft due</i>
6	Ch. 5 Privacy	Privacy Reading: Ch. 5 <i>Individual presentations</i>	Privacy Reading: NONE <i>Individual presentations</i>
7		Reading: Nissenbaum article "A Contextual Approach to Privacy Online" <i>Long paper – Revision comments due</i> <i>Individual presentations</i>	Ch. 6 Security <i>Individual presentations</i>
8	Ch. 6 Security	Jake Hansen Security Reading: Ch. 6, Tavani <i>Individual presentations</i>	Security Reading: Ch. 6, Tavani <i>Individual presentations</i>

9	Ch. 6 Security Ch. 8 Intellectual Property	Security Wrap-up discussion Current Issue to be assigned Long paper – Revised draft due Individual presentations	Intellectual Property Reading: Ch. 8, Tavani Individual presentations
10	Ch. 8 Intellectual Property	Property Reading: Raymond, "The Cathedral and the Bazaar" (29 pages) Individual presentations	Reading: Ch. 8, Tavani Individual presentations
11		In-class ethics bowl organization and preparation	Veterans Day Holiday
12		Class cancelled rescheduled for ethics bowl 11/19 (6-9pm)	No Class <i>Ethics Bowl Competition</i> 6-9 pm
13	Ch. 11. Community, Personal Identity, ...	Reading: Turkle article	Thanksgiving holiday
14		Reading: Ch. 10 (pp. 300-315) Alison Adam's "Gender and computer ethics" article	Reading: Ch. 11 Digital Nation video discussion, Chapters 6,7,8 http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/digitalnation/living-faster/digital-natives/ethics-for-the-net-gen.html?play
15	Ch. 12 Emerging Technologies	Reading: Ch. 12 Bostrom article (Ethical Issues in Advanced Artificial Intelligence) Nano technologies, AI	Course wrap-up

Supplemental Reading list that may be assigned throughout semester:

- (9/12) Moor's "Just Consequentialism and Computing" (Ethical Theory)
- Nissenbaum's "Computing & Accountability" (Professional Ethics)
- Nissenbaum article "A Contextual Approach to Privacy Online"
- Reading: Raymond, "The Cathedral and the Bazaar" (Property)
- Turkle, "Computer Games as Evocative Objects: From Projective Screens to Relational Artifacts"
- Adams, "Gender and Computer Ethics"
- Bostrom article (Ethical Issues in Advanced Artificial Intelligence)