

COMPSCI 230: Ethical Issues in Computing

Instructor

Instructor: Jim Buffenbarger
Electronic mail: buff@cs.BoiseState.edu
Office: MEC-302C 426-3567

Meetings

Lectures: TuTh 10:40–11:30 MEC-307
Office hours: TuTh 3:40– 4:30 MEC-302C
by appointment MEC-302C

Catalog Description

Privacy, intellectual property rights, computer crime, codes of conduct. Risks and liabilities of computer-based systems. Electronic information and free speech.

Objectives

Students are introduced to computer ethics, including:

- the history of computer technology
- classical ethics
- ethics aspects of networking
- intellectual property
- privacy
- computer and network security
- computer reliability
- professional ethics
- work and wealth

Prerequisites

COMPSCI 125 Introduction to Computer Science I
COMPSCI 225 Introduction to Computer Science II
ENGL 102 English Composition
and
ENGR 102 The Ethical Dimensions of Technology
or
PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

Textbook and Other Resources

The textbook is:

- *Ethics for the Information Age*, by Michael Quinn. Fourth edition. Addison-Wesley, 2011, ISBN-10: 0132133873, ISBN-13: 9780132133876.

Activities

Grades are based on student performance of several kinds of activities. Their weights are listed below. If you organize and manage your time effectively, the workload should not exceed 10–15 hours per week, including class meetings.

Homework	80%
Final	20%

Homework

Several homework problems are assigned during the semester.

Exams

There are no exams administered during the semester. The final period is used for student presentations.

Grading

Homework is delivered at the beginning of class on the day it is due. Late work is not accepted.

Makeup examinations are not normally administered.

Scores are posted near my office, as they become available. You are encouraged to check your scores to ensure they are recorded properly. If you feel that a grading mistake has been made, contact me within two weeks of the date that work is returned. Old scores are not changed.

Academic Honesty

The following quotation is from the BSU Undergraduate Catalog. You should read that section.

The university's goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces educated, literate people. Because cheating and plagiarism are at odds with that goal, they shall not be tolerated in any form. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent that student's own ideas and effort; when the work does not, the student has engaged in academic dishonesty.

There is related material in the BSU Student Handbook.

The course instructor is responsible for handling each case of academic dishonesty in the classroom except where a major or repeated offense is involved. In a proven case of cheating a student will be dismissed from the class and a failing grade issued.

There are many forms of academic dishonesty. Some relevant examples include:

- Submitting programs, or parts of programs, written by someone else.
- Viewing exam answers, homework answers, or programs written by someone else. This includes material from other courses and previous semesters.
- Distributing exam answers, homework answers, or programs to someone else, even after it has been graded.

The BSU Undergraduate Catalog contains more examples. If you are unsure about a particular case, ask your instructor,

On homework, a student must work independently. Ideas and general principles can be discussed with other students, but work must be original.

Keep your files to yourself. See the UNIX commands `chmod go-rwx` and `ls -l`.

On exams, of course, each student must work entirely independently.

Computer Accounts

Each student receives an account on the department's network of computers, which run the LINUX operating system. If you are unfamiliar with the department's computers, you are urged to attend office hours during the first week or two of classes. I'll try to get you started with these powerful tools.

You are responsible for understanding and complying with the departmental computing policy.

Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assigned</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1	Aug 23 Tue	Catalysts for Change			1
	Aug 25 Thu				
2	Aug 30 Tue				
	Sep 01 Thu				
3	Sep 06 Tue	Introduction to Ethics			2
	Sep 08 Thu				
4	Sep 13 Tue				
	Sep 15 Thu				
5	Sep 20 Tue		HW#1		
	Sep 22 Thu				
6	Sep 27 Tue				
	Sep 29 Thu				
7	Oct 04 Tue	Networking		HW#1	3
	Oct 06 Thu				
8	Oct 11 Tue		HW#2		
	Oct 13 Thu				
9	Oct 18 Tue	Intellectual Property			4
	Oct 20 Thu		HW#3	HW#2	
10	Oct 25 Tue				
	Oct 27 Thu				
11	Nov 01 Tue				
	Nov 03 Thu		HW#4	HW#3	
12	Nov 08 Tue				
	Nov 10 Thu				
13	Nov 15 Tue				
	Nov 17 Thu				
14	Nov 22 Tue	Thanksgiving			
	Nov 24 Thu	Thanksgiving			
15	Nov 29 Tue			HW#4	
	Dec 01 Thu	presentations			
16	Dec 06 Tue	presentations			
	Dec 08 Thu	presentations			
17	Dec 13 Tue	Final (presentations): 10:30-12:30			