

## COMPSCI 230: Ethical Issues in Computing

### Instructor

Instructor: Jim Buffenbarger  
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### Meetings

Lectures: MoWe 8:40–9:30 MEC-114  
Office hours: MoWe 9:40–10:30 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. Third edition. Addison-Wesley, 2009.

## 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	70%
Final	15%

## 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	Jan 18 Mon	MLK Day			
	Jan 20 Wed				
2	Jan 25 Mon				
	Jan 27 Wed				
3	Feb 01 Mon				
	Feb 03 Wed				
4	Feb 08 Mon				
	Feb 10 Wed				
5	Feb 15 Mon	President's Day			
	Feb 17 Wed				
6	Feb 22 Mon				
	Feb 24 Wed				
7	Mar 01 Mon				
	Mar 03 Wed				
8	Mar 08 Mon				
	Mar 10 Wed				
9	Mar 15 Mon				
	Mar 17 Wed				
10	Mar 22 Mon				
	Mar 24 Wed				
11	Mar 29 Mon	Spring Break			
	Mar 31 Wed	Spring Break			
12	Apr 05 Mon				
	Apr 07 Wed				
13	Apr 12 Mon				
	Apr 14 Wed				
14	Apr 19 Mon				
	Apr 21 Wed				
15	Apr 26 Mon				
	Apr 28 Wed				
16	May 03 Mon				
	May 05 Wed				
17	May 12 Wed	Final: 8:00–10:00			