

## COMPSCI 230: Ethical Issues in Computing

### Instructor

Instructor: Jim Buffenbarger  
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### Meetings

Lectures: MoWe 9:40–10:30 MEC-114  
Office hours: MoWe 10:40–11:30 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 225 Introduction to Computer Science II  
COMM 101 Fundamentals of Speech Communication  
ENGL 202 Technical Communication  
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	Jan 16 Mon	MLK Day			
	Jan 18 Wed	Catalysts for Change			1
2	Jan 23 Mon				
	Jan 25 Wed				
3	Jan 30 Mon	Introduction to Ethics			2
	Feb 01 Wed				
4	Feb 06 Mon				
	Feb 08 Wed				
5	Feb 13 Mon		HW#1		
	Feb 15 Wed				
6	Feb 20 Mon	President's Day			
	Feb 22 Wed				
7	Feb 27 Mon	Networking		HW#1	3
	Feb 29 Wed				
8	Mar 05 Mon		HW#2		
	Mar 07 Wed				
9	Mar 12 Mon	Intellectual Property			4
	Mar 14 Wed		HW#3	HW#2	
10	Mar 19 Mon				
	Mar 21 Wed		HW#4		
11	Mar 26 Mon	Spring Vacation			5
	Mar 28 Wed	Spring Vacation			
12	Apr 02 Mon				
	Apr 04 Wed			HW#3	
13	Apr 09 Mon	presentations		HW#4	
	Apr 11 Wed	presentations			
14	Apr 16 Mon	presentations			
	Apr 18 Wed	presentations			
15	Apr 23 Mon	presentations			
	Apr 25 Wed	presentations			
16	Apr 30 Mon	presentations			
	May 02 Wed	presentations			
17	May 07 Mon	Final (presentations): 10:30-12:30			