

COMPSCI 230: Ethical Issues in Computing

Instructor

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Meetings

Lectures: WeFr 9:00–9:50 MEC-114
Office hours: MoWe 3:00–4:00 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.

Foundational Studies Program

Boise State's Foundational Studies Program provides undergraduates with a broad-based education that spans the entire university experience. COMPSCI 230 Ethical Issues in Computing satisfies 2 credits of the Foundational Studies Program Communication in the Discipline requirements. It supports the following University Learning Outcomes, along with a variety of other course-specific goals:

- Writing (ULO 1)
- Oral Communication (ULO 2)

COMPSCI 230 Ethical Issues in Computing is designed to integrate course content with the opportunity to develop communication skills important in the field of Computer Science. This course helps to achieve the goals of the Foundational Studies Program by focusing on the following course learning outcomes. After successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Use written and verbal communication to describe the ethical challenges inherent to computing today.

- Articulate the importance of ethics and professional integrity in Computer Science as a discipline.
- Demonstrate that an understanding of ethical issues and professional responsibilities in computing.

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. Fifth edition. Addison-Wesley, 2013, ISBN: 9780132855532.

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 might be 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 23 Wed	Catalysts for Change			1
	Jan 25 Fri				
2	Jan 30 Wed				
	Feb 01 Fri	Introduction to Ethics			2
3	Feb 06 Wed				
	Feb 08 Fri				
4	Feb 13 Wed				
	Feb 15 Fri		HW#1		
5	Feb 20 Wed				
	Feb 22 Fri				
6	Feb 27 Wed				
	Mar 01 Fri	Networking		HW#1	3
7	Mar 06 Wed				
	Mar 08 Fri		HW#2		
8	Mar 13 Wed				
	Mar 15 Fri				
9	Mar 20 Wed	Intellectual Property			4
	Mar 22 Fri		HW#3,4	HW#2	
10	Mar 27 Wed	Spring Break			
	Mar 29 Fri	Spring Break			
11	Apr 03 Wed				
	Apr 05 Fri			HW#4	
12	Apr 10 Wed	presentations			
	Apr 12 Fri	presentations		HW#3	
13	Apr 17 Wed	presentations			
	Apr 19 Fri	presentations			
14	Apr 24 Wed	presentations			
	Apr 26 Fri	presentations			
15	May 01 Wed	presentations			
	May 03 Fri	presentations			
16	May 08 Wed	presentations			
	May 10 Fri	presentations			
17	May 13 Mon	Final (presentations): 12:00-2:00			