CS 230: Ethical Issues in Computing

Instructor

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Meetings

Lectures:	WeFr 9:00–10:15	MEC-114
Office hours:	WeFr 12:00–1:00	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. Local and global impact of computing.

PREREQ: COMM 101, CS 221, ENGL 202, and PHIL 102.

Goals

The student will be able to explain, employ, and communicate the basic concepts of ethical analysis in the domain of information technology, including:

- understanding the history of computer technology

- analyzing a behavior or scenario for ethical aspects

- understanding classical ethical theories

- applying ethical theories to argue morality or immorality

- understanding intellectual property and its protections

- understanding privacy and its protections

- understanding professional, ethical, legal, security, and social issues and responsibilities

- analyzing the local and global impact of computing on individuals, organizations, and society

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.

Textbook

- *Ethics for the Information Age*, Michael Quinn, Fifth edition, Addison-Wesley, 2013, ISBN: 9780132855532.

Grading

At the end of the course, a letter grade is assigned to each student according to rank among classmates, which is determined from numerical scores assigned for performance of these activities:

Activity	Weight
Homework	80%
Final (Presentation)	20%

Homework

Several homework sets are assigned during the semester. They are primarily from the textbook's end-of-chapter exercises. Assignments will be made available online.

Exams

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

Due Dates

Homework is due at 11:59PM, Mountain Time, on the day it is due. Late work is not accepted. To submit your solution to an assignment, login to a lab computer, change to the directory containing the files you want to submit, and execute:

```
submit buff class assignment
```

For example:

```
submit buff cs101 hw1
```

The `submit` program has a nice `man` page.

Makeup examinations are not normally administered.

Scores are posted, via a code you will be sent, 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 Integrity

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, those actions shall not be tolerated in any form. Academic dishonesty includes assisting a student to cheat, plagiarize, or commit any act of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism occurs when a person tries to represent another person's work as his or her own or borrows directly from another person's work without proper documentation.

If a student engages in academic dishonesty, the student may be dismissed from the class and may receive a failing grade. Other penalties may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

Much more information about academic integrity, including examples of academic dishonesty, is at:

> http://cs.boisestate.edu/~buff/files/www-integrity.pdf

If you are unsure about a particular behavior, ask your instructor.

Labs

Each student receives an account on the cluster of computers in the Computer Science Lab (ENGR-213/214). The cluster comprises a server named `onyx.boisestate.edu` and a set of nodes with shared home directories. It is remotely accessible, via SSH. The cluster runs the Linux and Windows operating systems, via VMware.

Physical access requires building and room access. After hours building access, and all-hours room access, require an authenticated proximity-type student-identification card.

You are responsible for understanding and obeying lab rules:

> http://coen.boisestate.edu/its/lab-rules

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned	Due	Reading
1	Jan 22 Wed	Catalysts for Change			1
	Jan 24 Fri				
2	Jan 29 Wed				
	Jan 31 Fri	Introduction to Ethics			2
3	Feb 05 Wed				
	Feb 07 Fri				
4	Feb 12 Wed				
	Feb 14 Fri		HW#1		
5	Feb 19 Wed				
	Feb 21 Fri				
6	Feb 26 Wed				
	Feb 28 Fri	Networking		HW#1	3
7	Mar 05 Wed				
	Mar 07 Fri		HW#2		
8	Mar 12 Wed				
	Mar 14 Fri				
9	Mar 19 Wed	Intellectual Property			4
	Mar 21 Fri		HW#3,4	HW#2	
10	Mar 26 Wed	Spring Break			
	Mar 28 Fri	Spring Break			
11	Apr 02 Wed				
	Apr 04 Fri				
12	Apr 09 Wed				
	Apr 11 Fri			HW#3,4	
13	Apr 16 Wed	presentations			
	Apr 18 Fri	presentations			
14	Apr 23 Wed	presentations			
	Apr 25 Fri	presentations			
15	Apr 30 Wed	presentations			
	May 02 Fri	presentations			
16	May 07 Wed	presentations			
	May 09 Fri	presentations			
17	May 14 Wed	Final (presentations): 9:30-11:30			