CS 230: Ethical Issues in Computing

Instructor

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Meetings

Lectures:	MoWe 12:00–1:15	CCP-221
Office hours:	TuTh 12:30–1:30	CCP-359
	by appointment	CCP-359

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: ENGL 102, COMM 101 and ENGL 202 and PHIL 102, or ED-CIFS 201 and STEM-ED 220, and CS 121 and CS 121L.

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. CS 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)

CS 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, Seventh edition, Addison-Wesley, 2017, ISBN: 9780134296548.

Other Course Material

This syllabus, lecture slides, assignments, and other material is available on the computers in the Computer Science Labs (CCP-240, CCP-241, and CCP-242), served by `onyx.boisestate.edu`, which is remotely accessible, via Secure Shell (SSH). It is *not* on the WWW, Blackboard, or elsewhere. It is in what is called our "`pub`" directory:

```
onyx:~jbuffenb/classes/230/pub
```

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	60%
Exam	20%
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

A midterm exam is administered during the semester. It is an in-class, open-note, and open-textbook (but no electronic devices or other books) test.

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 jbuffenb class assignment
```

For example:

```
submit jbuffenb 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 and Safety

Each student receives an account on the cluster of computers in the Computer Science Labs: CCP-240, CCP-241, and CCP-242. 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

The health and safety of all members of our academic community is very important. While computer science is a relatively safe science/engineering discipline, dangers exist, and we should be prepared for them. Basically, call 911 to report an emergency. Beyond that, please take a moment to review this common-sense information:

> http://coen.boisestate.edu/cs/safetydocument

Schedule

Week	*Date*	*Topic*	*Assigned*	*Due*	*Reading*
1	Jan 09 Mon	Catalysts for Change			1
	Jan 11 Wed				
2	Jan 16 Mon	MLK Day			
	Jan 18 Wed				
3	Jan 23 Mon	Introduction to Ethics			2
	Jan 25 Wed				
4	Jan 30 Mon	Networking			3
	Feb 01 Wed		HW#1		
5	Feb 06 Mon	Intellectual Property			4
	Feb 08 Wed				
6	Feb 13 Mon				
	Feb 15 Wed		HW#2	HW#1	
7	Feb 20 Mon	Presidents Day			
	Feb 22 Wed	Information Privacy			5
8	Feb 27 Mon				
	Mar 01 Wed	Privacy and the Government			6
9	Mar 06 Mon		HW#3,4	HW#2	
	Mar 08 Wed				
10	Mar 13 Mon				7
	Mar 15 Wed	Exam			
11	Mar 20 Mon	Spring Break			
	Mar 22 Wed	Spring Break			
12	Mar 27 Mon				
	Mar 29 Wed				
13	Apr 03 Mon	presentations		HW#3,4	
	Apr 05 Wed	presentations			
14	Apr 10 Mon	presentations			
	Apr 12 Wed	presentations			
15	Apr 17 Mon	presentations			
	Apr 19 Wed	presentations			
16	Apr 24 Mon	presentations			
	Apr 26 Wed	presentations			
17	May 01 Mon	Final (presentations): 12:30 - 2:30			