

CSC208: Ethics in Technology

Instructor: Jean D. Hop
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Virtual Office Hours: Since we are working virtually, simply email me if you want to meet and we will arrange a mutually convenient time as quickly as possible.

Course Description

Information Technology and the rapid pace in which it has advanced have had a tremendous impact on our lives. Changes have been swift and the human capacity to deal with them is limited. It has been said that our technology has outpaced our humanity. This course will research the new responsibilities technology presents and our ability to deal with these changes in an ethical manner. Students will employ ethical frameworks, which integrate computer science and ethics, to develop the skills required to examine different sets of assumptions and question them. Case studies will provide a historical perspective for analysis.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the learners will

1. Identify the meaning of ethics and purpose in studying ethics
2. Describe, compare and contrast the learner's personal ethics framework with the Kant, Utilitarian and Social Contract frameworks
3. Describe and apply the frameworks covered in class and the learner's personal ethics framework to ethical technology issues
4. Identify the legislative milestones and ethical issues related to specific technologies covered in class

Required Materials:

Access to the Internet

Textbook: Quinn, Michael J., "Ethics for the Information Age, 5th Edition," Addison-Wesley, Boston, 2009. ISBN13: 978-0-13-285553-2

Prerequisites: CSC208

None

Grading Breakdown:

- Participation (20%)
- Weekly Quizzes (20%)
- Current Events Assignments (20%)

- Personal Ethics Paper (20%)
- Final Exam (20%)

• **Participation – 20%**

This is an online class and, while we do not meet in person, your active participation in this class is required for it to be a success. There will be multiple discussions per module. The quality as well as the quantity of your replies will be taken into account for your participation grade.

• **Quizzes – 20%**

There will be a quiz after each module. If you do not do the quiz within the prescribed time frame, you will receive a 0 for it.

• **Current Events Assignments – 20%**

Each module will require you find a current events article relating to the topic at hand and that you fill out and submit a completed Current Events template. We will be discussing these articles (See Participation above).

• **Personal Ethics Paper – 20%**

You will be required to write a Personal Ethics paper describing your personal framework, comparing it to the frameworks we use in class and applying it to one scenario from the class.

• **Final Exam – 20%**

The final exam is online, open notes and open book/internet. It is timed and cumulative. It is not necessary that it be proctored.

Late Policy – Late work is not accepted except with documented proof of the reason for the late submittal.

No Extra Credit – There are NO extra credit assignments in this class nor does it matter if you have not earned but need/want a certain grade for any reason - you need the class to graduate, you need the grade for funding, etc. Sometimes extra credit may be built into an assignment, but no extra or makeup work will be offered or provided.

You are responsible for making sure you received appropriate grades for work you submitted. **You have one week after the grades are posted to question a grade.** You question a grade by sending email to me about it that is dated less than a week after the grade was posted. Grades are locked in after one week if email is not sent to me at the appropriate time.

Grading Scale:

92 - 100 A 80 - 81 B- 68 - 69 D+
90 - 91 A- 78 - 79 C+ 60 - 67 D

88 - 89 B+ 72 - 77 C 0 - 59 F
82 - 87 B 70 - 71 C-

Submitted Materials

You should keep a copy of all materials you submit to the Dropbox until the end of the course.

Incomplete and FX Grades

Grades of Incomplete are given only in cases of medical emergency or other highly unusual emergency situations. Please note that University guidelines require that you must be earning a passing grade at the time you request an incomplete grade. You should have completed most of the course, with at most one or two major forms of evaluation missing. Incompletes revert to an F if they are not resolved within one quarter. If such a situation should occur, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity, particularly plagiarism, are not tolerated. I have failed students in the past as part of the sanctions associated with academic integrity violations. Plagiarism is defined by the university as:

“..a major form of academic dishonesty involving the presentation of the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following:

- a. The direct copying of any source, such as written and verbal material, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores, whether published or unpublished, in whole or part, without proper acknowledgement that it is someone else's.*
- b. Copying of any source in whole or part with only minor changes in wording or syntax, even with acknowledgement.*
- c. Submitting as one's own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment that has been prepared by someone else. This includes research papers purchased from any other person or agency.*
- d. The paraphrasing of another's work or ideas without proper acknowledgement.*

Plagiarism, like other forms of academic dishonesty, is always a serious matter. If an instructor finds that a student has plagiarized, the appropriate penalty is at the instructor's discretion. Actions taken by the instructor do not preclude the college or the university from taking further punitive action including dismissal from the university” (DePaul Student Handbook).

University policies on academic integrity will be strictly adhered to. Consult the Academic Integrity website for further details.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If it occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed on the course site.

Accessibility Policies and Services

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure you have contacted the:

PLuS program (for LD, AD/HD) at 773-325-1677, Student Center #370 and/or The Office for Students with Disabilities (for all other disabilities) at 773-325-1677, Student Center #370