

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Department and Course Number	CS 301	Course Coordinator	Russ Abbott
Course Title	Computer Ethics in the Information Age	Total Credits	1

Current Catalog Description:

Responsibilities of computer scientists as influenced by growth in computer use and networks. Professional and Ethical Responsibilities; Intellectual Property; Piracy, Hacking, Viruses, Liability, Privacy, Crime, and Civil liberties.

Textbook:

Basse, S., *A Gift of Fire, 2nd edition*, Prentice Hall, 2003.

References:

- Alcorn, P. A., *Practical Ethics for a Technological World*, Prentice Hall, 2000.
- Basse, S., *A Gift of Fire, 2nd edition*, Prentice Hall, 2003.
- Bynum, T. W., *Computer Ethics and Professional Responsibility: Introductory Text and Readings*, Blackwell Publishers, 2003.
- Dertouzos, M. L., *The Unfinished Revolution: How to Make Technology Work for Us—Instead of the Other Way Around*, HarperBusiness, 2002.
- Edgar, S. L., *Morality and Machines*, Jones & Bartlett Publishers; 2nd edition, 2002.
- Ermann, M. D. and M. S. Shauf, *Computers, Ethics, and Society, 3rd edition*, Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Forester, Tom & Perry Morrison. *Computer Ethics: Cautionary Tales and Ethical Dilemmas in Computing, 2nd Ed.* MIT Press, 1993.
- Hester, D.M. and P. J. Ford, *Computers and Ethics in the Cyberage*, Prentice Hall, 2000.
- Johnson, Deborah G. *Computer Ethics, 3rd Ed.* Prentice Hall, 2000.
- Quinn, M. J., *Ethics for the Information Age*, Addison Wesley, 2004.
- Reynolds, G., *Ethics in Information Technology*, Course Technology, 2002.
- Spinello, R., *Case Studies in Information Technology Ethics, 2nd Edition*, Prentice-Hall, 2002.
- Spinello, R., *Cyber Ethics: Morality and Law in Cyberspace, Second Edition*, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc., 2002.
- Spinello, R., *Readings in Cyber Ethics, 2nd edition*, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc., 2004.
- Tavani, H., *Ethics and Technology: Ethical Issues in an Age of Information and Communication Technology*, Wiley, 2003.

Course Goals:

At the end of the course, students will understand the ethical issues facing them as computer science professionals. They will be able to analyze situations involving ethical conflicts and will be able to make decisions based on professional codes of ethics.

These course goals contribute to the success of **Student Learning Outcomes 1, 4, 5, and 6.**

Prerequisites by Topic:

Students have a basic understanding of programming and how programs can affect the world in which they operate.

Major Topics Covered in the Course:

- What is Computer Ethics
- Professional Ethics
- Software Theft
- Property Rights in Computer Software
- Computers and Privacy
- The Invasion of Privacy
- Crime, Abuse, and Hacker Ethics
- Computer Crime
- Hacking and Viruses
- Responsibility and Liability
- The Social Implications of Computers: Autonomy and Access
- ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct
- IEEE Code of Ethics

Laboratory Project (specify number of weeks on each):

The students will present various sides of ethical issues in a debate or discussion forum.

Estimate Curriculum Category Content (Quarter Hours)

Area	Core	Advanced	Area	Core	Advanced
Algorithms			Data Structures		
Software Design			Prog. Languages		
Comp. Arch.			Other	1	

Oral and Written Communications:

Students will present ethical issues in oral form. They will also write analyses of ethical issues.

Social and Ethical Issues:

Computer Ethics is the subject matter of the course.

Theoretical Content:

Students are required to learn abstract concepts in computer-related ethics.

Problem Analysis:

Students are required to analyze situations that are likely to occur in the workplace for their ethical content.

Solution Design:

Students are required to determine how to make specific decisions in situations that involve ethical conflicts