University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
School of Information Studies

L&I SCI 120
Information Technology Ethics

Spring 2011
Monday / Wednesday, 2:00p-3:15p
S195 Lubar Hall

<table>
<tr><td>Instructor:</td><td>Teaching Assistant:</td></tr>
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General Description:
This course provides a comprehensive overview of the current ethical issues in information and communication technology (ICT) use. It examines an array of long-standing and emerging issues facing ICT users, ranging from free speech, privacy, intellectual property, net neutrality, security and crime, to ethics in social networking, online communities, and online gaming. The course will discuss the ethical responsibilities of IT professionals, and promote the critical examination and responsible use of ICT.

Objectives:
1. To review major ethical theories as they pertain to information and communication technologies
2. To explore current issues in ICT policy and the ethical dilemmas that arise in light of them
3. To investigate students' ethical responsibilities as members of our information society

Competencies:
Upon successful completion of the course, students will:
1. Understand various ethical theories and ethical decision making models
2. Respond to and apply appropriate decisions around ethical issues in an array of information and technology practices
3. Participate appropriately and ethically in the information society

Method of Instruction & Learning:
- Classroom lecture and discussion, complemented by film & media screenings.
- Small group work (both in and out of class time).

Prerequisites:
- No specific course prerequisites.
- Students will need basic familiarity with computers and the Internet.

Course Materials:
- Textbook: Tavani, H. (2011). ***Ethics and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing*** (3rd edition). Boston: John Wiley and Sons. ISBN: 978-0-470-5090-0
- D2L: Additional course readings will be distributed in class and/or posted on D2L. **You are expected to check the D2L website regularly** for new postings, including assigned readings (PDFs and webpages), videos & links from lectures, discussion questions, assignments, and so on.
- Wikipedia: Students might find it helpful to review relevant articles on Wikipedia, and are *encouraged to constructively edit and improve* those encyclopedia entries.

Course Schedule: (updated Feb 12, 2011)

Date	Topic	Readings	Reflection
1/24 1/26	Course Introduction Introduction to Information Technology Ethics	 Ch. 1 (1-14, 25-30)	
1/31 2/2	Ethical Theories & Principles *SNOW DAY*	Ch. 2 (35-44, 53-67)	 –
2/7 2/9	Ethical Theories & Principles (cont'd) Pluralism and Intercultural Ethics	Ess, Ch. 6 (pp. 167-183; 207-214) Ess, Ch. 6 (pp. 183-199)	X
2/14 2/16	Professional Ethics & Ethical Design Privacy & Surveillance	Ch. 4 (101-113, 125-127) // Manders-Huits & Zimmer *Documentary screening (worksheet)*	X
2/21 2/23	Privacy & Surveillance (cont'd) Privacy & Surveillance: Facebook & Web 2.0	Ch. 5 // Dyson Albrechtslund // Zimmer // Doyle & Fraser	X
2/28 3/2	Intellectual Property Intellectual Property (cont'd)	Ch. 8 (229-241, 245-249, 252-260) Ess, Ch. 3 (64-73, 90-96)	X
3/7 3/9	DMCA, Fair Use, Mashups P2P, RIAA, & UWM	Recut, Reframe, Recycle // EFF report Grodzinsky & Tavani // handouts	X
3/14 3/16	Catch-up & Review Mid-term Exam		
3/21 3/23	SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK		
3/28 3/30	Hacking, Hacktivism & Ethics Wikileaks	Ch. 6 (179-189) Zittrain & Sauter // Shirky	X
4/4 4/6	Search Engines and Information Gatekeeping Free Speech and Expression Online	Zittrain & Palfrey // Grimmelmann Ch. 9 (277-295)	X
4/11 4/13	Artificial Intelligence & Robot Ethics Human Implants & Cyborgs	Ch. 11 (352-356) // various links Professor Cyborg // various links	X
4/18 4/20	Digital Sex & Violence Ethics & Online Gaming	Ch. 11 (334-338) // Ess Ch. 5 // links Consalvo // Warner & Raiter // links	X
4/25 4/27	Ethics of Social Networking: Online Lives Ethics of Social Networking: Friending	*Documentary screening (worksheet)* boyd // Wittkower	
5/2 5/4	*Group Project Work Session* *Group Project Work Session*	(work in class) (work in class)	
5/9 5/11	In Class Poster Presentations Public Poster Session	(present in class) (location TBA)	
	Final Exam		

Course Elements: *(read these carefully and completely)*

1. Class Sessions:

   a. Lectures and class discussions will focus on the assigned reading, highlighting particular items and connecting content in the readings to other "real-world" examples. Students are expected to attend each session, arriving prepared to participate in informal discussions of the class material, respond to direct questions, and ask questions of their own.

   b. Attendance is required. Absences require the instructor's approval in advance, and may require written documentation of medical or family emergencies. Multiple unexcused absences will be noted and will impact your "Lecture Attendance" grade.

   c. Each student is expected to actively and constructively participate in class. I will note contributions by each student in each class meeting to guide the assessment of the "Attendance and participation" grade element. If you make well-informed and relevant contributions to at least half the sessions then you should score very well. There is no need to hog the discussion, and a few quiet days will not hurt you.

      - In order to accomplish this objective, it is imperative that you prepare for class – do the readings in advance, and jot down questions or things you disagree with to bring up in class.

   d. For sessions dedicated to group work, your participation will be assessed based on the constructive and collaborative use of this time to work on group assignments.

2. Weekly Reflections:

   a. Students must submit written responses associated with 9 discussion sessions over the course of the semester, indicated with an "X" on the course schedule. Your grade will be based on the best 8 responses; your lowest score will be dropped.

   b. Reflective questions will be posted in advance for each lecture session, and will your written answers are due via D2L each Friday at 3:00pm.

   c. Each response should be between 300-500 words, and must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Use a 12-point kerned font such as Times New Roman. Multi-page documents should have page numbers. Don't forget your name, the course number, an assignment description, and the date. Assignments turned in via D2L should be in .doc or .rtf format.

   d. Each response is worth 2 points, and will be evaluated on the following scale:

      2 points: Response is on time, at required length, generally free from errors, and shows you have sufficiently engaged with the reading and lecture material in crafting your answer.

      1 point: Responses that are late, not at required length, or error ridden, or responses that show a lack of effort to engage with the course material and/or are minimally responsive to the question.

      0 points: Failure to submit response, or responses that show a clear failure in properly addressing the question at hand.

      Your grade will be based on the best 8 responses; your lowest score will be dropped.

   e. If a response is particularly stellar (for example, it brings in outside sources with new insights, connects material covered in different lectures in creative ways), you will earn a bonus "+" mark. If you earn 3 or more "+", your final course grade will be increased by 1%; if you earn 5 or more "+", your final course grade will be increased by 2%. Thus, exceptional performance on responses could potentially bump you up a partial grade level for the entire course.

3. Group Poster Project:

   a. Small groups will be formed to work on a group poster project. The projects are meant to explore the ethical dimensions of an information technology of the group's choosing (with instructor's approval).

The projects are meant to be collaborative, and while some time will be allotted during the official class period, groups will need to work together outside of class.

   b. Groups will present their poster in class, as well as at a public "poster session" on campus. (Further details and instructions will be provided)

4. <u>Exams:</u>

   a. The course includes both a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will consist of short answer and/or brief essay questions. Review questions will be provided prior to the exams. More details to be provided.

Course Policies:

<u>Credit Breakdown</u>:   Grading Scale:

Attendance and participation	15%	A	94-100	C	74-77
Weekly reflections	20%	A-	91-93	C-	71-73
Group project	20%	B+	88-90	D+	68-70
Midterm exam	20%	B	84-87	D	64-77
Final exam	25%	B-	81-83	D-	60-63
		C+	78-80	F	0-59

<u>Atmosphere for Learning</u>:

-   Students are encouraged to participate in open and frank discussions of the course material, but are also expected to respect the opinions of other students and to engage in discussion and debates in a sensitive and respectful manner.

-   Before class begins, please turn off all cell phones, instant messengers, and any other items that might ring, buzz, play "My Humps," or otherwise call attention to themselves and disrupt class.

-   Laptop computers may be used to assist in note taking. But please check email, chat, text, and update your Facebook status on your own time; it is distracting and disrespectful to the instructor and your classmates.

-   Fair warning of things I will take note of: Coming to class late, leaving class early, sleeping in class, excessive eating in class, playing on your laptop or texting during class, doing work for other courses in class, etc. These, or similar, activities will negatively affect your attendance/participation grade.

<u>Contacting Me</u>:

-   I will be available for *short* discussions immediately before and after class.

-   <u>By email</u>: I will respond to class-related emails during normal work hours, and will generally reply the same day as received (an e-mail sent after working hours, however, may not be replied to until the next morning). Please be sure to use your UWM e-mail account, identify yourself and the course, and *always* use proper and professional e-mail etiquette and modes of address. For example, don't start your e-mail with *"Hey Mike"* or end with *"Kthxbye!"*

-   <u>In person</u>: I will be in my office and available to talk to you during my scheduled office hours (see above). Other times may be available via prior arrangement.

UWM and SOIS Academic Policies:
The following links contain university policies affecting all SOIS students. Many of the links below may be accessed through a PDF-document maintained by the Secretary of the University: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf.

Undergraduates may also find the ***Panther Planner and Undergraduate Student Handbook*** useful (http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/Handbook2005-06.pdf). For graduate students, there are additional guidelines from the Graduate School (http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Grad_Sch/StudentInfo/), including those found

in the ***Graduate Student and Faculty Handbook***:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Grad_Sch/Publications/Handbook/.

- <u>Students with disabilities</u>. If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of a course, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students with disabilities are responsible to communicate directly with the instructor to ensure special accommodation in a timely manner. There is comprehensive coverage of issues related to disabilities at the Student Accessibility Center (http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/MainOffice.html), important components of which are expressed here: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf.

- <u>Religious observances</u>. Students' sincerely held religious beliefs must be reasonably accommodated with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements, according to the following policy: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm. Please notify your instructor within the first three weeks of the Fall or Spring Term (first week of shorter-term or Summer courses) of any specific days or dates on which you request relief from an examination or academic requirement for religious observances.

- <u>Students called to active military duty</u>. UWM has several policies that accommodate students who must temporarily lay aside their educational pursuits when called to active duty in the military (see http://www3.uwm.edu/des/web/registration/militarycallup.cfm), including provisions for refunds, readmission, grading, and other situations.

- <u>Incompletes</u>. A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantial cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or some limited amount of other term work. An incomplete is not given unless the student proves to the instructor that s/he was prevented from completing course requirements for just cause as indicated above (http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf).

- <u>Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment)</u>. UWM and SOIS are committed to building and maintaining a campus environment that recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person, fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect, and encourages the members of its community to strive to reach their full potential. The UWM policy statement (http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf) summarizes and defines situations that constitute discriminatory conduct. If you have questions, please contact an appropriate SOIS administrator.

- <u>Academic misconduct</u>. Cheating on exams and plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, ranging from a failing grade for a course or assignment to expulsion from the University. See the following document (http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html) or contact the SOIS Investigating Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for more information.

- <u>Complaints</u>. Students may direct complaints to the SOIS Dean or Associate Dean. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

- <u>Grade appeal procedures</u>. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow SOIS appeals procedures or, in the case of a graduate student, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School (http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm).

- <u>Examinations, Finals</u>. The Secretary of the University is authorized to prepare the final examination schedule. The time of the final examination for an individual or a class may be changed only with the prior approval of the dean or director of the respective college/school. The change will involve a postponement to a later date. For individuals with exam conflicts, a separate week at the very end of the exam week will be reserved to take one of the conflicting exams (http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad+admin_policies/S22.htm).