

**UNIT CODE:** SIT 405

**UNIT TITLE:** Professional Practice and Ethics

**LECTURE HOURS: 45 Prerequisite: None**

**LECTURER: EMAIL:**

* 1. **Purpose**

This course enables students to learn about ethical problems that computer scientists face, the codes of ethics of computing professional societies, legal issues involved in technology, and the social implications of computers, computing, and other digital technologies

**2.0 Expected Learning Outcome**

At the end of the course the students should be able to:

1. Explain the relevance of a code of conduct to professional practice in computing.
2. Describe the ethical, social and legal issues related to information systems development and operation.
3. Analyze the local and global impact of computing on individuals, organizations, and society.
4. Explain the concepts and principles of moral thinking to problems relating to computing and digital technologies

**3.0 Course description**

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| **WEEK** | **TOPIC** | **SUB-TOPIC** |
| 1 | Introduction | -Introduction to Basic concepts, terms and definitions |
| 2 | Professional Ethics | * Characteristics of a profession * The system of professions * Professional responsibility * Professional ethics. |
| 3 |  | Cat 1 |
| 4 | Code of Conduct | * Code of Conduct within IS * Functions of codes of conduct * Licensing * Components |
| 5 | Code of Ethics | * Code of ethics and professional conduct ( ACM, IEEE and BCS) |
| 6 |  | CAT 2 |
| 7 | Legal Concepts | * Contracts * Liability * Breach of contract |
| 8 | Property law and Rights in IT  Accountability and Information Technology | * Intellectual * Property * Copyright * Patents |
| 9 | Computer Crime | * Computer Misuse and Computer Crime * Computer Misuse and Criminal Law * Privacy and Freedom of information |
| 10 | Software safety | * Health and Safety at Work * Software Safety |
| 11 | Professional development | * Professional Development * Personal skills of the IS Professional |
| 13 |  | Assignment and Revision |
| 14 | EXAMINATIONS | |

**4.0 Teaching Methodology**

Lectures, Practicals, assignments, Tutorials, Demonstrations, case studies and class presentations.

**5.0 Instructional Material and Equipment**

LCD projector, computer laboratory, e-learning materials, Internet

**6.0 Course Evaluation Methods**

* Continuous assessment test
* Assignment
* End of semester exam

30% Continuous Assessment (Tests 10%, Assignment 10%, Practical 10%)

70% End of Semester Examination.

**7.0 References and Course Textbooks**

**Core Text Books**

1. Quinn, M. (2015). *Ethics for the Information Age*. Pearson Education Limited.
2. Spinello, R. (2017). *Cyberethics*. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

**Recommended Text Book**

1. Bott, F. (2007). *Professional issues in information technology*.
2. Dudley, A., Braman, J. and Vincenti, G. (2012). *Investigating cyber law and cyber ethics*. Hershey, Pa.: IGI Global (701 E. Chocolate Avenue, Hershey, Pennsylvania, 17033, USA).