

**INFO 2605: Professional Ethics and Law**  
**2023-2024 Semester 1**  
**Course Outline**

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

Level:	2	Credits:	3
Prerequisite:	INFO 1600 or COMP1600		
Anti-requisites:	MGMT 3035 or MGMT 3095		
Instructor:	Miss Shareeda Mohammed	Email:	courses.infotech@gmail.com
Lecture Hours:	Tuesday	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	FST 114
Tutor	Miss Tracell Frederick	Email:	tracell.frederick@gmail.com
Tutorial:	Wednesday	4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Remote
	Friday	4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Remote

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an overview of current ethical standards and practices in the computing and information technology area. Students will develop an awareness of both the ethical and legal issues facing the computerized workplace. The course will be delivered using a combination of lectures, eLearning, case studies and various online resources. Assignments will take the form of written examinations, group projects and presentations.

**COURSE RATIONALE**

An IT professional needs to understand the social and professional impact of information technology and computing, and its effect on ethical codes of conduct and law. This course introduces students to issues that deal with the moral, legal and social issues involving computing and information technology.

**COURSE AIMS**

The course aims to expose students to the ethical and legal issues involved in computing and information technology.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Distinguish between ethics and law
2. Apply ethical theories, moral assumptions and values to create ethical arguments in decision making.
3. Discuss the professional certification, codes of ethics, conduct, and practice, such as the ACM/IEEE-CS, SE.
4. Identify the consequences of software piracy on software developers and the role of relevant enforcement organizations
5. Discuss the impact of social media on individualism, collectivism and culture.
6. Explain the philosophical foundation and ramifications of privacy and privacy laws.
7. Explain how intellectual property laws may vary internationally
8. Discuss intellectual property rights such as copyrights, patents, trade secrets, trademarks, digital rights management and plagiarism.
9. Explain how risk can be managed in an information technology environment
10. Prepare and present an oral presentation for a management audience

## **COURSE CONTENT**

The following main topics are covered in this course:

1. Ethics Moral and Laws & Concepts of Cyberethics
  - 1.1. Moral Assumptions and values
  - 1.2. The relationship between regional culture and ethical dilemmas
2. Ethical Concepts and Ethical Theories: Establishing and Justifying a Moral System
  - 2.1. Subjective Relativism, Cultural Relativism Divine Theory ethical Egoism
  - 2.2. Kantianism
  - 2.3. Ethical Theories and Decision Making
3. Reasoning Skills for Evaluating Disputes in Cyberethics
  - 3.1. Arguments
  - 3.2. Common Fallacies
4. Professional Ethics, Codes of Conduct and Moral Responsibility

- 4.1. Professional Ethics
  - 4.1.1. Keeping up-to-date as a computing professional in terms of familiarity, tools, skills, legal and professional
  - 4.1.2. The role of the computing professional in public policy
  - 4.1.3. Professional certification, codes of ethics, conduct, and practice, such as the ACM/IEEE-CS, SE, AITP
  - 4.1.4. Forms of professional credentialing
- 4.2. Acceptable use policies for computing in the workplace
- 4.3. Ergonomics and healthy computing environments
- 4.4. Maintaining awareness of consequences
- 4.5. Ethical dissent and whistle-blowing
- 5. Cybercrime and cyber related crimes
  - 5.1. Hacking and Cracking
  - 5.2. Software Piracy
  - 5.3. Plagiarism
  - 5.4. System use policies & monitoring
  - 5.5. Risks and liabilities of computer-based systems
- 6. Intellectual Property
  - 6.1. Philosophical foundations of intellectual property
  - 6.2. Legal foundations for intellectual property protection
    - 6.2.1. Copyright
    - 6.2.2. Patent
    - 6.2.3. Trademark
    - 6.2.4. Trade Secrets
- 7. Digital rights management
- 8. Privacy
  - 8.1. Ramifications of differential privacy
  - 8.2. Philosophical foundations of privacy rights
- 9. Ethics and the Internet
  - 9.1. Online communities and social implications
  - 9.2. Growth and control of the Internet (cross-reference NC/Introduction/organization of the

Internet)

9.3. Examples of malware (e.g., viruses, worms, spyware, botnets, Trojan horses or Rootkits)

## 10. Digital Divide

10.1. Differences in access to digital technology resources and its resulting impact

10.2. Accessibility issues, including legal requirements

## ASSESSMENT

There are five assessments in this course worth 100% collectively: 2 assignments (short answer questions based on case scenarios), an essay-based portfolio (8-10 essays on varying topics covered in the course), 1 course work exam and 1 group debate (groups of 3- 4 students working together for pro/con aspects of a debate).

Assessment	Learning Outcomes										Weighting %
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Assignment #1	X	X									10
Assignment #2			X	X	X	X					10
Coursework Exam	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			30
Essay Portfolio	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		30
e-Debate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	20
Total %											100%

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

A case-study approach will be used to introduce the main concepts of the course. Lectures will be used to introduce the main concepts of the course. However, discussion and brain storming methods will be used throughout the course with the goal of allowing students to gain an appreciation for the area. Case studies will be used to immerse the student in real world scenarios that are relevant to their field.

## RESOURCES

- *Recommended*
  - Tavani Herman T., 2015, Ethics and Technology: controversies, questions, and strategies for ethical computing 5th ed. Wiley
  - Quinn M. 2015 Ethics for the information Age 6e Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall
  - Baase, S. 2017. A Gift of Fire Social, Legal and Ethical Issues for Computers and the Internet. 4e Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.
- *Online Resources*
  - OER Course on Ethics and Information Technology:  
<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/ethics-and-information-technology/view>
  - [Ethics and Information Technology Springer Journal](#)

## COURSE CALENDAR: Subject to change.

Week	Topic	Assessment
1.	Intro to Cyberethics ⚖ Concepts ⚖ Perspectives ⚖ Law vs Ethics	Portfolio Given
2.	Intro to Cyberethics ⚖ Methodological frameworks ⚖ Categories of ethics (professional, social and individual)	
3.	Ethical concepts and theories ⚖ Divine Theory ⚖ Ethical Egoism ⚖ Subjective Relativism, Cultural Relativism	
4.	Ethical concepts and theories ⚖ Kantianism ⚖ Ethical Theories and Decision-Making Ethical Views	Assignment #1 Given
5.	Tools for evaluating cyber ethic issues ⚖ Critical thinking skills ⚖ Developing logical arguments ⚖ Common Fallacies	
6.	Ethics and the Internet	Assignment #1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⚖ Online communities and social implications</li> <li>⚖ Growth and control of the Internet (cross-reference NC/Introduction/organization of the Internet)</li> <li>⚖ Examples of malware (e.g., viruses, worms, spyware, botnets, Trojan horses or Rootkits)</li> </ul>	Due
7.	Privacy and Cyberspace: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⚖ Privacy and civil liberties</li> <li>⚖ Gathering and exchanging personal data</li> <li>⚖ Mining personal Data</li> </ul>	Assignment #2 Given
8.	Professional ethics and moral responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⚖ Professional Ethics               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Importance</li> <li>○ Professional certifications, professional credentialing</li> </ul> </li> <li>⚖ Developing a code of ethics</li> <li>⚖ Codes of conduct and practice (ACM/IEEE)</li> <li>⚖ Acceptable use policy</li> <li>⚖ Ergonomics and healthy computing environment</li> <li>⚖ Ethical dissent and whistle blowing</li> </ul>	
9.	Cybercrime and cyber related crimes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⚖ Hacking and Cracking</li> <li>⚖ Software Piracy</li> <li>⚖ Plagiarism</li> <li>⚖ System use policies &amp; monitoring</li> <li>⚖ Risks and liabilities of computer-based systems</li> </ul>	Assignment #2 Due
10.	Intellectual property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⚖ Ownership of information</li> <li>⚖ Copyright</li> <li>⚖ Patents</li> <li>⚖ Trademark laws</li> <li>⚖ Trade secrets</li> </ul>	
11.	Intellectual property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⚖ Software Piracy</li> <li>⚖ Digital Rights Management</li> </ul>	Course Work Exam
12.	Globalization Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⚖ Differences in access to digital technology resources and its resulting impact</li> <li>⚖ Accessibility issues, including legal requirements</li> </ul>	Debate
13.		Portfolio Due