

School of Computer Science – Individual Coursework Issue Sheet

Session	2024/2025	Semester	Autumn
Module Name	Professional Ethics	Code	COMP3041
Module Convenor	El Ioini Nabil		

Issue Date	01 October 2024
Introduction	<p>This coursework is designed to engage you in the critical examination of ethical issues that arise in the design, development and use of software systems. Throughout this project, you will have the opportunity to select a software application that interests you, conduct thorough research on its practices, and apply various ethical theories to analyse its implications.</p>
Coursework Name	Individual Coursework 1 Weight: 30%
Coursework Overview and Deliverables	<p>This coursework consists of three parts (10% each) to help students prepare for the final report.</p> <p>Coursework 1.1: Selection of Software Application or Platform</p> <p>- Choose a software application or platform to analyse. Make sure that the application is not widely studied to promote originality. You can try with local applications or companies.</p> <p>Deliverable: A brief write-up (500 words) explaining your choice, including why it is relevant for ethical analysis. Additionally, address what makes this application novel, especially if it has been studied before.</p> <p>Coursework 1.2: Literature Review</p> <p>Conduct preliminary research on existing literature regarding ethical issues related to your chosen application. Since you may not have studied the application in depth yet, focus on broader ethical themes that apply to similar applications or the industry as a whole.</p> <p>Deliverable: A summary write-up (600 words) highlighting key ethical concerns identified in the literature. Discuss relevant ethical issues that have been documented in similar contexts, which will provide a foundation for your analysis later.</p> <p>Coursework 1.3: Ethical Framework Proposal</p> <p>What ethical theories do you plan to apply in your analysis, and why? The objective is to reflect on your initial findings and any personal insights gained from your research. Use this reflection to justify why the selected ethical theories are appropriate for this case</p> <p>Deliverable: A concise write-up (600 words) on the selected ethical frameworks, their relevance to the application and incorporating your reflections.</p>
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All parts of Coursework 1 will be submitted in PDF format via Moodle

Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coursework 1.1: 15 October 2024 - Coursework 1.2: 29 October 2024 (To be confirmed) - Coursework 1.3: 12 November 2024 (To be confirmed)
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Coursework Name	Individual Coursework 2	Weight: 70%
Coursework Overview and Deliverables	<p>Report</p> <p>Write a report of no more than 2000 words that summarises your findings and reflections. Please ensure you cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Software System: Provide a short overview of the chosen software system or platform, including its purpose, target audience, and significance in the tech landscape. • Detailed Analysis Based on Ethical Themes: Conduct a thorough analysis that examines relevant ethical themes based on the system features such as privacy, accountability, fairness, and algorithmic bias... Consider the perspectives of different stakeholders involved, including users, developers, and end users. • Application of Selected Ethical Theories: Apply specific ethical theories (e.g., utilitarianism, virtue ethics...) to evaluate the practices and policies of the software application or platform. Analyse how these theories inform your understanding of the ethical issues identified. • Critical Reflection Using Ethical Theories: Reflect on how the ethical theories applied throughout your analysis have shaped your understanding of the issues. Discuss how these theories provide insights into the responsibilities of tech professionals and the implications for ethical decision-making in the context of the software application or platform. • Refer to Domain-specific Ethical Principles: Utilise the Software Engineering Code of Ethics and other software-related Ethical standards as guidelines. • Recommendations for Improving Ethical Standing: Based on your analysis and reflections, propose actionable recommendations for enhancing the ethical practices of the software application or platform. Ensure that these recommendations are grounded in the ethical theories you have applied. <p>Presentation</p> <p>A presentation of the report (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A).</p>	
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The report should be submitted as a PDF file via Moodle - There is no need to submit the presentation. Students may use slides or the report during their presentation. 	
Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report: to be confirmed - Presentation : to be confirmed 	

Feedback Mechanism	- Feedback will be e-mailed to each student.
Late Policy	Late submissions will incur a penalty of 5% per working day.