1. General information

Class meetings: **MWF 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.**

Prerequisite: **CS101 or equivalent computer knowledge**

# Instructor: **Linda O'Hara**

Email: ohara@eecs.oregonstate.edu

Office hours: MWF after class or by appointment

Kelley Engineering Center 1093

541-737-4965

TA: TBD

**Modifications to this syllabus needed during the term will be discussed in class.**

2. Course Description (3 credits): For many in the advanced field of computer science, the technological progress seems painfully slow. And yet, there are many who argue that the forces of technology are already too strong and changing the face of the earth too fast for society to cope.

Clearly, there seems to be a need to pause and confront the **social, legal,** and **ethical** issues presented to us by the problems and advances in computer science if we are to be socially responsible *producers* and *consumers* of this technology.

This course fulfills the synthesis requirement for Science, Technology, and Society.

3. Learning Objectives: The student should be able to do the following after successful completion of this course:

1. **Analyze** relationships among science, technology, and society using critical perspectives or examples from historical, political, or economic disciplines.
2. **Analyze** the role of science and technology in shaping diverse fields of study over time.
3. **Analyze** a moral problem related to information technology from the point of view of a consequentialist ethical theory.
4. **Analyze** a moral problem related to information technology from the point of view of a nonconsequentialist ethical theory.
5. **Explain** the roles and responsibilities of a computer professional.
6. **Articulate** in writing a critical perspective on issues involving science, technology, and society using evidence as support.

4. Required Materials

Text: *Ethics for the Information Age, Fifth Edition*

Author: Michael J. Quinn

Publisher: Pearson Addison-Wesley

ISBN 0-13-285553-4

5. Methods of Evaluation

To be successful in this class, you need to attend each session. Come to class prepared to actively participate in discussions.

**Quizzes**: You are responsible for completing this self evaluation test online

*beginning week 2*. The test will consist of multiple choice questions randomly chosen from a test bank, available in Blackboard after class on Fridays. Take the test as many times as you like. Your last attempt must be closed book/notes and ***completed before Monday evening*** of the week when a new chapter is introduced/discussed. (8 total, 72 pts.)

**Tests:** Midterm (50 points), Final (60 points)

**Essays**: Refer to the rubric for evaluation criteria and the last page of this syllabus

for due dates. (5 total, 100 points)

**Class participation**: You are expected to contribute to discussions and you will

be graded on your ability to do so. There may be activities during class that will count toward this element of your grade; you cannot make this up if you are absent. (18 pts.)

*Grade scale* (total points earned, 300 possible)

A = 270 – 300 C = 210 – 220

A- = 261 – 268 C- = 201 – 208

B+ = 252 – 259 D+ = 192 – 199

B = 240 – 250 D = 180 – 190

B- = 231 – 238 F = < 180

C+ = 222 – 229

**Special Notes**

* Missing any assignments may result in the reduction of your final grade. This will be used by the instructor when your final total is between letter grades (see scale above).
* Use the review questions at the end of each chapter as a guide to test your understanding of the material.
* There will be no make-up quizzes or exams.
* Discussion contributions should be courteous and not disrupt the learning of your peers.
* Group activities may occur where everyone is responsible for the learning, achievement and success of their group members.

Policies regarding academic honesty can be found at http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/regs.htm and compliance is expected for this course.

**Students with Disabilities**: Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

**Week** **Topic**

1 09/30 Introduction/Overview

*Catalysts for Change* (chapter 1)

## 2 10/07 *Introduction to Ethics* (chapter 2)

**Essay** due Friday

### 3 10/14 *Networked Communications* (chapter 3)

**Essay** due Friday

4 10/21 *Intellectual Property* (chapter 4)

**Essay** due Friday

1. 10/28 Review

**No quiz to complete this week**

**Test** **Friday** (chapters 1 – 4)

6 11/04 *Privacy and Security* (chapters 5, 6, 7)

7 11/11 *Privacy and Security* (chapters 5, 6, 7)

**Essay** due Friday

8 11/18 *Computer Reliability* (chapter 8)

9 11/25 *Professional Ethics* (chapter 9)

**NO CLASS Friday – Thanksgiving Holiday**

10 12/02 *Work and Wealth* (chapter 10)

**Essay** due Wednesday

11 **FINAL** (chapters 5 – 10) Tuesday, December 10 at 9:30 a.m.