# Course Outline

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| **Course title: Professional Ethics and Values Education** | **Instructor name: To be determined** |
| **Credit units: 3** | **Total hours: 54** |

## Course Description:

IT Professionals should be able to conduct themselves appropriately in the company they belong to. This course enhances students’ knowledge on the proper way of behaving appropriately as IT Workers and Users. It introduces basic knowledge on morality and ethics. As the course advances, topics such as Computer Crimes, Privacy, Freedom of Expression, Intellectual Property, Software Development, and Social Networking are discussed thoroughly. For each topic, case studies are provided to further enhance the students’ understanding.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

* CLO 1: Define and explain key concepts in professional ethics and morality.
* CLO 2: Analyze ethical dilemmas and apply ethical theories to resolve them.
* CLO 3: Evaluate the ethical implications of emerging technologies in IT.
* CLO 4: Identify and assess issues related to computer crimes and privacy.
* CLO 5: Discuss the importance of intellectual property and its protection in the IT industry.
* CLO 6: Examine the ethical considerations in software development and social networking.
* CLO 7: Develop case study analyses to demonstrate understanding of professional ethics in IT.

## Topics / Modules and Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Topic 1: Introduction to Professional Ethics and Morality

* ILO 1.1: Define the terms 'ethics' and 'morality' and explain their significance in a professional context.
* ILO 1.2: Identify key ethical theories and principles relevant to professional conduct.

1. Topic 2: Ethics in Information Technology

* ILO 2.1: Describe the ethical issues specific to information technology.
* ILO 2.2: Analyze the impact of technology on traditional ethical concepts and human self-understanding.

1. Topic 3: Computer Crimes and Privacy Issues

* ILO 3.1: Identify various types of computer crimes and their implications.
* ILO 3.2: Evaluate privacy concerns and legal issues related to information security.

1. Topic 4: Freedom of Expression and Intellectual Property

* ILO 4.1: Discuss the balance between freedom of expression and ethical constraints in the digital world.
* ILO 4.2: Explain the importance of intellectual property rights and the ethical issues surrounding them.

1. Topic 5: Ethical Considerations in Software Development

* ILO 5.1: Identify ethical issues that arise during software development.
* ILO 5.2: Evaluate the role of ethical practices in ensuring software quality and reliability.

1. Topic 6: Social Networking and Ethics

* ILO 6.1: Analyze the ethical issues related to social networking platforms.
* ILO 6.2: Discuss the responsibilities of IT professionals in managing and mitigating ethical concerns on social media.

## Weekly Activities

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| **Week No.** | **Topic** | **Activity Description** | **Expected Output** | **Assessment Tools** |
| Week 1 | **Introduction to Professional Ethics and Morality** | Lecture on the definitions and significance of 'ethics' and 'morality' in a professional context. Discussion on key ethical theories and principles. | Short essay defining ethics and morality, and identifying key ethical theories. | Rubric for essay evaluation. |
| Week 2 | **Introduction to Professional Ethics and Morality** | Group discussion on case studies related to ethical dilemmas in IT. | Group presentation analyzing the case studies. | Presentation rubric. |
| Week 3 | **Ethics in Information Technology** | Lecture on ethical issues specific to IT. | Quiz on ethical issues in IT. | Quiz. |
| Week 4 | **Ethics in Information Technology** | Debate on the impact of technology on traditional ethical concepts and human self-understanding. | Debate performance. | Debate rubric. |
| Week 5 | **Computer Crimes and Privacy Issues** | Lecture on various types of computer crimes and their implications. | Case study analysis on a specific computer crime. | Case study rubric. |
| Week 6 | **Computer Crimes and Privacy Issues** | Lecture on privacy concerns and legal issues related to information security. | Written report on privacy concerns in a specific context. | Report rubric. |
| Week 7 | **Computer Crimes and Privacy Issues** | Group activity to create a privacy policy for a hypothetical company. | Group presentation of the privacy policy. | Presentation rubric. |
| Week 8 | **Freedom of Expression and Intellectual Property** | Lecture on the balance between freedom of expression and ethical constraints in the digital world. | Quiz on freedom of expression and ethical constraints. | Quiz. |
| Week 9 | **Freedom of Expression and Intellectual Property** | Lecture on the importance of intellectual property rights and the ethical issues surrounding them. | Short essay on intellectual property rights in the IT industry. | Essay rubric. |
| Week 10 | **Freedom of Expression and Intellectual Property** | Group discussion on case studies related to intellectual property disputes. | Group presentation analyzing the case studies. | Presentation rubric. |
| Week 11 | **Ethical Considerations in Software Development** | Lecture on ethical issues that arise during software development. | Quiz on ethical issues in software development. | Quiz. |
| Week 12 | **Ethical Considerations in Software Development** | Group activity to develop a code of ethics for a software development team. | Group presentation of the code of ethics. | Presentation rubric. |
| Week 13 | **Ethical Considerations in Software Development** | Case study analysis on ethical practices in software quality and reliability. | Written report on the case study. | Report rubric. |
| Week 14 | **Social Networking and Ethics** | Lecture on ethical issues related to social networking platforms. | Quiz on social networking ethics. | Quiz. |
| Week 15 | **Social Networking and Ethics** | Group discussion on the responsibilities of IT professionals in managing and mitigating ethical concerns on social media. | Group presentation on ethical responsibilities in social networking. | Presentation rubric. |
| Week 16 | **Social Networking and Ethics** | Case study analysis on ethical issues in social networking. | Written report on the case study. | Report rubric. |
| Week 17 | **Course Review and Integration** | Review of all topics covered, focusing on integration and application of concepts. | Comprehensive review quiz. | Quiz. |
| Week 18 | **Final Project Presentation** | Students present their final projects, which involve a comprehensive case study analysis covering multiple topics from the course. | Final project presentation. | Presentation rubric and comprehensive project rubric. |

## References

*Van de Poel, I., & Royakkers, L. (2023). \*Ethics, technology, and engineering: An introduction\*.*[[1]](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=SYq4EAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR10&dq=Introduction+to+professional+ethics+and+morality+textbooks&ots=O45eEgi2xr&sig=fh3MTz5XCP2m1bZwGcMCBVaXI2w)

*Nyholm, S. (2022). \*This is technology ethics: An introduction\*.*[[2]](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=FzSiEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR13&dq=Ethics+in+Information+Technology+textbooks&ots=FaDCwIPLxa&sig=rT_fzOU6m9wi0KS5Wu6BPbh86pY)

*Grama, J.L. (2020). \*Legal and Privacy Issues in Information Security\*.*[[3]](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=6_8FEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=Computer+crimes+and+privacy+issues+textbooks&ots=aWYOpAbn76&sig=bmy77_xvsl1baiHybt3-uSB_0M8)

*Hildebrandt, M. (2020). \*Law for computer scientists and other folk\*.*[[4]](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=vqXaDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=Computer+crimes+and+privacy+issues+textbooks&ots=E0ESUXr5Dm&sig=LfFsO3Hvrnk48-wYTfQeZMukfA0)