# Course Outline

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| **Course title: Social Issues and Professional Practice** | **Instructor name: Jun Albert Pardillo** |
| **Credit units: 3** | **Total hours: 54** |

## Course Description:

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. Topics such as Computer Crimes, Privacy, Freedom of Expression, Intellectual Property, Software Development, and Social Networking are discussed thoroughly with case studies.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

* CLO 1: CLO1: Understand and apply ethical principles and professional responsibilities in the context of IT practice.
* CLO 2: CLO2: Analyze and evaluate the impact of computer crimes and cybersecurity threats on organizations and society.
* CLO 3: CLO3: Assess privacy issues associated with information technology and develop strategies to address them.
* CLO 4: CLO4: Critically examine the role of freedom of expression in the digital age and its implications for IT professionals.
* CLO 5: CLO5: Identify and navigate intellectual property rights in the context of software development and digital content.

## Topics / Modules and Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Ethics and Morality in Information Technology

* ILO1: Articulate the importance of ethics and morality in the IT profession and their role in guiding professional conduct.
* ILO2: Evaluate case studies to identify ethical dilemmas and propose solutions based on moral reasoning.

1. Computer Crimes and Cybersecurity

* ILO1: Describe the various types of computer crimes and the impact they have on businesses and society.
* ILO2: Understand cybersecurity principles and frameworks to prevent and respond to cyber threats.

1. Privacy Issues in Information Technology

* ILO1: Examine the concept of privacy in the context of information technology and the challenges it presents.
* ILO2: Analyze privacy enhancing technologies and their effectiveness in protecting user data.

1. Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age

* ILO1: Discuss the importance of freedom of expression online and the ethical considerations for IT professionals.
* ILO2: Assess the role of private governance on social media platforms in regulating content and upholding freedom of expression.

1. Intellectual Property Rights in Software Development

* ILO1: Identify the various forms of intellectual property and their relevance in software development.
* ILO2: Apply principles of intellectual property law to protect software and digital innovations.

## Weekly Activities

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| **Week No.** | **Topic** | **Activity Description** | **Expected Output** | **Assessment Tools** |
| Week 1 | **Ethics and Morality in Information Technology** | Introduction to the course and discussion on the importance of ethics in IT. Students will engage in an open discussion on what they perceive as ethical behavior in IT. | Students will write a reflective essay on the role of ethics in IT. | Reflective essay grading rubric |
| Week 2 | **Ethics and Morality in Information Technology** | Case study analysis on ethical dilemmas faced by IT professionals. Students will work in groups to analyze scenarios and present their solutions. | Group presentations on case study solutions. | Presentation grading rubric and peer evaluation |
| Week 3 | **Computer Crimes and Cybersecurity** | Lecture on types of computer crimes followed by a workshop on cybersecurity principles and frameworks. | Students will create a cybersecurity checklist for a given scenario. | Checklist evaluation form |
| Week 4 | **Computer Crimes and Cybersecurity** | Simulation of a cyber-attack and response exercise. Students will role-play different stakeholders in a cybersecurity breach scenario. | A report detailing the response strategy and lessons learned from the simulation. | Cyber-attack simulation debrief and report grading rubric |
| Week 5 | **Privacy Issues in Information Technology** | Discussion on privacy challenges in IT and exploration of privacy enhancing technologies. | Students will draft a privacy policy for a new social media platform. | Privacy policy grading rubric |
| Week 6 | **Privacy Issues in Information Technology** | Guest speaker from the industry discussing real-world privacy issues and how they are addressed. | Students will submit a summary report of the guest speaker's presentation and their own reflections. | Summary report grading rubric |
| Week 7 | **Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age** | Analysis of the balance between freedom of expression and content regulation on social media platforms. | Students will prepare a debate arguing for or against stronger content regulation online. | Debate assessment rubric |
| Week 8 | **Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age** | Students will research a recent incident involving freedom of expression online and present their findings. | A presentation on a recent case involving freedom of expression and its implications. | Case study presentation rubric |
| Week 9 | **Intellectual Property Rights in Software Development** | Lecture on intellectual property rights followed by a workshop on applying IP law principles in software development. | Students will create a guide on protecting software innovations using IP law. | IP law application guide rubric |
| Week 10 | **Intellectual Property Rights in Software Development** | Discussion on case studies involving intellectual property disputes in the software industry. | Students will write an analysis paper on the outcome of a given intellectual property dispute case study. | Analysis paper grading rubric |
| Week 11-18 | **Capstone Project** | Students will work on a capstone project that encompasses the topics covered in the course. This project will involve research, analysis, and presentation of a solution to a real-world problem related to social issues and professional practice in IT. | A comprehensive capstone project report and presentation. | Capstone project report and presentation grading rubrics |

## References

*Afifi, M.A.M., Kalra, D., & Ghazal, T.M. (2020). Information technology ethics and professional responsibilities.*  
Link: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/Information\_technology\_ethics\_and\_professional\_responsibilities

*Alexandrou, A. (2021). Cybercrime and information technology.*  
Link: https://books.google.com/books?Cybercrime\_and\_information\_technology

*Benedek, W., & Kettemann, M.C. (2020). Freedom of expression and the internet.*  
Link: https://books.google.com/books?Freedom\_of\_expression\_and\_the\_internet

*Dratler Jr, J., & McJohn, S.M. (2023). Intellectual property law.*  
Link: https://books.google.com/books?Intellectual\_property\_law

*Nissenbaum, H. (2020). Protecting privacy in an information age.*  
Link: https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/Protecting\_privacy\_information\_age