# Course Outline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 and 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 with case studies.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

* CLO 1: Understand the fundamental concepts of ethics and morality in the context of information technology.
* CLO 2: Analyze various social issues related to IT such as computer crimes, privacy concerns, freedom of expression, and intellectual property.
* CLO 3: Apply ethical reasoning to assess IT professional practices in various scenarios including software development and social networking.
* CLO 4: Evaluate the impact of technology on society and the responsibilities of IT professionals in mitigating negative effects.
* CLO 5: Develop strategies for addressing ethical dilemmas and legal challenges in the field of information technology.

## Topics / Modules and Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Overview of Ethics in IT

* Define and explain the role of digital ethics in the IT profession.
* Identify and discuss various models and approaches for integrating ethics into IT practices.

1. Computer Crimes and Cybersecurity

* Describe the nature and types of computer crimes and cybersecurity threats.
* Understand the legal frameworks and ethical considerations related to cybersecurity.

1. Privacy Issues in IT

* Evaluate the challenges of maintaining privacy in the digital age, particularly in health IT.
* Discuss the balance between technology adoption and privacy concerns from a global perspective.

1. Freedom of Expression Online

* Assess the implications of the internet on freedom of expression and information society.
* Analyze the role of digital technology in shaping culture and society in the digital age.

1. Intellectual Property in Software Development

* Understand the principles of intellectual property law as it applies to software development.
* Examine the international agreements and their impact on intellectual property rights in IT.

## Weekly Activities

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week No.** | **Topic** | **Activity Description** | **Expected Output** | **Assessment Tools** |
| Week 1 | **Overview of Ethics in IT** | Introduction to the course and discussion of the syllabus. Lecture on the importance of digital ethics in IT. | Participation in discussions and submission of a reflection paper on the role of ethics in the IT profession. | Class participation, Reflection paper |
| Week 2 | **Overview of Ethics in IT** | Lecture and group discussions on various models and approaches for integrating ethics into IT practices. | Group presentation on selected models of ethical IT practices. | Group presentation, Peer evaluation |
| Week 3 | **Computer Crimes and Cybersecurity** | Interactive lecture on the nature and types of computer crimes and cybersecurity threats. | Individual short essay on the impact of a recent computer crime case. | Essay submission |
| Week 4 | **Computer Crimes and Cybersecurity** | Workshop on legal frameworks and ethical considerations in cybersecurity. | Analysis report on a cybersecurity case study. | Case study analysis report |
| Week 5-6 | **Privacy Issues in IT** | Lecture series and case study analysis on privacy challenges in the digital age, with a focus on health IT. | Presentation of a case study analysis on privacy in health IT. | Case study presentation, Written report |
| Week 7 | **Privacy Issues in IT** | Debate on the balance between technology adoption and privacy concerns from a global perspective. | Debate participation and submission of a position paper. | Debate performance, Position paper |
| Week 8-9 | **Freedom of Expression Online** | Lecture on freedom of expression in the digital age and its impact on society. | Research paper on a chosen topic related to freedom of expression online. | Research paper submission |
| Week 10 | **Freedom of Expression Online** | Group activity analyzing the role of digital technology in shaping culture and society. | Group report and class presentation on the findings. | Group report, Presentation |
| Week 11-12 | **Intellectual Property in Software Development** | Series of lectures on intellectual property law and its application to software development. | Quiz on intellectual property principles and a written summary of key points. | Quiz, Summary paper |
| Week 13 | **Intellectual Property in Software Development** | Discussion on international agreements and their impact on intellectual property rights in IT. | Group simulation of a negotiation process for an international software development agreement. | Simulation exercise, Group reflection paper |
| Week 14-15 | **Synthesis and Case Studies** | Case study discussions integrating knowledge from previous topics to address ethical dilemmas and legal challenges in IT. | Group presentation of case study solutions and strategies for ethical decision-making. | Case study presentation, Strategy report |
| Week 16 | **Exam and Review** | Review session for the final exam. Students can ask questions and clarify concepts. | Active participation in review session. | Class participation |
| Week 17 | **Final Exam** | Comprehensive final exam covering all course topics and learning outcomes. | Completion of the final exam. | Final exam |
| Week 18 | **Course Wrap-up and Feedback** | Final class meeting to wrap up the course, discuss takeaways, and collect student feedback. | Submission of a reflective essay on the course learning and feedback form. | Reflective essay, Feedback form |

## References

*Paltiel, M., Cheong, M., Coghlan, S., & others. (2023). Approaches and Models for Teaching Digital Ethics in Information Systems Courses–A Review of the Literature.*  
Link: https://journal.acs.org.au/index.php/ajis/article/view/4517

*Alexandrou, A. (2021). Cybercrime and information technology: The computer network infrastructure and computer security, cybersecurity laws, Internet of Things (IoT), and mobile …*  
Link: https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=mZhFEAAAQBAJ

*Keshta, I., & Odeh, A. (2021). Security and privacy of electronic health records: Concerns and challenges.*  
Link: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1110866520301365

*Benedek, W., & Kettemann, M. C. (2020). Freedom of expression and the internet: Updated and revised 2nd edition.*  
Link: https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=Ri0DEAAAQBAJ

*Dratler Jr, J., & McJohn, S. M. (2023). Intellectual property law: Commercial, creative and industrial property.*  
Link: https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=-gLuY2rBU9oC