

**Course Syllabus**  
**CS 2315 - Computer Ethics**  
**Spring 2020**

**Course Name:** Computer Ethics  
**Course Number:** CS 2315  
**Building & Room:** DERR 235

**Meeting times:** Mondays & Wednesdays: 12:30PM – 1:50PM

**Instructor:** Dr. Vasant C. Ramkumar  
**Office Location:** CML 301A  
**Office Phone:** (512) 217-0853  
**Email address:** vasant@txstate.edu  
**Web address:** <http://www.cs.txstate.edu/>

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Text: Textbook:**

Ethics for the Information Age, Quinn, 7th Ed., Pearson

**Catalog Description:**

Primarily for computer science majors, focusing on the ethical codes of the professional societies, the philosophical bases of ethical decision-making, and the examination of several contemporary case studies.

**Prerequisite(s):**

- C or higher in [CS 1428: Foundations of Computer Science I](#)
- C or better in ENG 1310, COMM 1310 and PHIL 1305 (or 1320)

**Course Objectives:**

1. Make students aware of the ethical codes of the various professional organizations and alternative viewpoints.
2. Stimulate critical discussion of the codes and the principles behind them.
3. Give the students a comparative overview of about six bases for ethical decision making, both classical and alternative.

4. Present the rudiments of legal language as applied to computer workers, basic legal obligations and responsibilities, and show how to obtain reliable information using Internet resources.
5. Instill in students the notion of their accountability to their profession as well as to society at large.

### Assignments and Papers

Assignments will be posted on TRACS and/or distributed in class. Without valid proof of an unexpected emergency, you will receive a grade of zero if you miss the deadline.

### Policies

We will not accept late work without a valid documented excuse. Makeup exams and quizzes will not be given under any circumstances, but under exceptional conditions, other arrangements may be made.

If you are dissatisfied with a grade you receive, you must **submit your complaint in writing** along with supporting evidence or arguments. We must receive this protest **within one week of the date on which we first attempt to return the assignment** to you. We will not consider any grade change request that does not fulfill this requirement.

Turning in an exam which is not entirely your own work is cheating. Turning in an assignment which is not entirely your own work (or your group's work, as per the assignment) is cheating. **Group discussion about course content is not cheating, and it is strongly encouraged.** Students who violate University and Departmental rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of a lowered or 0 grade on an assignment or exam, failure in the course, and/or dismissal from the University. Representing the work of others as your own will be considered academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Please read the [departmental policy](#).

At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Office of Disability Services.

A student who is absent from an examination or cannot meet an assignment deadline due to the observance of a religious holy day may take the examination on an alternate day, submit the assignment up to 24 hours late without penalty, or be excused from the examination or assignment, if proper notice of the planned absence has been given. Notice must be given at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester. It must be personally delivered to the instructor and signed and dated by the instructor, or sent certified mail, return receipt requested. Email notification will be accepted if received, but a student submitting such notification must receive

email confirmation from the instructor. A student who fails to complete missed work within the time allowed will be subject to the normal academic penalties.

### **Grading**

Final grades will be assigned based on the following components:

- Final Exam: 5%
- Exam #1: 30%
- Exam #2: 30%
- Term Paper: 15%
- Short Paper(s): 10%
- Presentation: 10%

Notes:

- This is a Discussion/Writing Intensive course. 65% of your grade will be determined through your submissions.
- The instructor reserves the right to alter the grades to the benefit of the students.

**Grades will be kept online on TRACS**

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### **Reading**

Please finish reading the chapters associated with each lecture **before** the lecture begins. You should also review the slides for each chapter posted on TRACS before the respective lectures. Note that the slides are to help you review the important points in each chapter.

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### **Lectures**

The lectures are discussion based and the instructor **may** use some slides that will help with the discussion.

Some Lectures will be conducted via Zoom to the classroom.

## Schedule

**\*The topics and assigned weeks are tentative and may change.**

Week 1	Introduction / Catalyst for Change
Week 2	<a href="#">Intro to Ethics</a>
Week 3	Intro to Ethics (cont.): <b>Short paper #1 due.</b>
Week 4	Networked Communications
Week 5	Networked Communications (cont.) / <a href="#">Intellectual Property</a>
Week 6	Intellectual Property (cont.), Exam#1 – Chapter 1-4
Week 7	Information <a href="#">Privacy</a> ;
Week 8	<a href="#">Govt. Privacy</a> ; <a href="#">Computer and Network Security</a> <a href="#">Short paper #2 due.</a>
Week 9	Spring Break
Week 10	<a href="#">Computer and Network Security</a> (cont.); <a href="#">Computer Reliability</a>
Week 11	<a href="#">Professional Ethics</a> ; Exam Review / Exam#2 – Chapter 5-8
Week 12	Professional Ethics (cont.)/ <a href="#">Work and Wealth</a> ; Presentations
Week 13	Presentations
Week 14	Final Exam Review/Presentations
Week 15	Presentations /Final Exam (Chapters 9-10)

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**Assignments:**

Assignment 1: Short Paper(s), "Topic to be assigned"

Assignment 2: Term Paper ["COMPANY" Code of Ethics](#)

Assignment 3: [Presentations](#)

**Due Dates:**

**Short Paper #1: 2/5**

**Short Paper #2: 3/11**

**Term Paper: 4/20**

**Exam 1: 2/26** (Chapters 1-4)

**Exam 2: 4/1** (Chapters 5-8)

**Final Exam: 5/4** (Chapters 9-10)

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