Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total

First Name:_____

Last Name:_____

Student ID:_____

Signature: _____

BLG 412E Computer Ethics Exam – May 7, 2015

1. [25 pts] You are appointed to head a small team working on an improvement to a software product. Specify **at least two clauses** (full version) of the **Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice (SECEPP)** that apply to each of the following events:

a) You observe that your team has a tendency to take shortcuts.

b) One of your team members comes to you complaining about shortcomings in the software product.

c) Your team members feel like they are not given time to keep up with new technologies.

2. [25 pts] This question consists of two parts. Try to keep your answer to this question to **under 10 sentences** (1 argument for and 1 against argument against the use of patents in each scenario using each theory, plus the theory explanations).

a) Name and briefly explain **two ethical theories** used in philosophical ethics for **justifying property.**

b) Use the two ethical theories you have named in Part (a) to **argue for and against** the use of patents for the two scenarios given below.

1) Patenting algorithms

2) Patenting user interfaces

3. **[25 pts]** The computer program "Eliza" is famous as an early text-based computer program that acts as a therapist, responding semi-intelligently to input from the user and asking leading questions. Give **3 reasons** (backed by ethical theories or well-defined considerations) why Eliza's function may be ethically problematic.

4. **[25 pts]** In collection of personal user data by websites, one of the most debated topics is which policy is more appropriate - **opt-in** or **opt-out**. In **opt-in**, the site explicitly tells the user what sort data it will collect and with whom it will share this data, then asks the user for permission; this process needs to be repeated with every change in policy. In **opt-out**, the site assumes that the user has granted all permissions, but allows the user to revoke some of the permissions. **Evaluate** these two policies in terms of **privacy**, **efficient operation of the site**, and **knowledge levels of users**.