



## **ETHC6000 – Ethics & Information Technology**

### **Module Overview and Assessment Details**

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#### **1. Introduction**

This module introduces students to the key ethical issues in information technology and offer them a clear understanding of some of the challenges they face in the professional context. The purpose is to provide students with concepts, frameworks, and tools that are useful to deal with these challenges. The central objective of this module is the detection and elimination of potential ethical concerns in Artificial Intelligence (AI). This module comprises two main teaching methods: (1) lectures, and case/interactive sessions, where students are expected to complete independent reading or examine ethical scenarios, and engage in a discussion and reflection regarding a specific case.

On successful completion, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the philosophy and principles of ethics, and how they relate to a variety of technology-related situations;
2. Compare and contrast different ethical paradigms (particularly looking at "means" and "ends") in the context of both software and data;
3. Evaluate a range of datasets according to the principles and philosophy of ethics;
4. Relate topics such as gender, race, nationality, ethnic group, and age to the study of ethics in technology,
5. Review and assess relevant literature, incorporating legislation, policy, directives, academic journals and industry standards to direct the development of ethical guidelines;
6. Select and employ the use of different technological solutions for a specific dataset;

## 2. Assessment

Semester	Assignment	Type	Weighting	Submission
1	A report on some current ethical issues with IT/AI and An infographic or short video summarise the report	Individual	30%	08-Mar-23
1	Develop an Organizational Ethical Report	Individual	50%	26-Apr-23
1	Interactive/case session participation	Individual	20%	On-going

The remainder of this document includes details on each assignment. Marking Guidelines are provided in the Appendix.

### 2.1 Current ethical issues report and Infographic/video (30% of overall grade)

Students are required to submit a report examining an ethical issue in contemporary Information technology or AI . Students should select:

- Only **ONE** topic to discuss in the report that is relevant from an ethical standpoint, e.g. data privacy, surveillance, gender or sexual objectification, data bias, algorithm bias, misuse of personal information, Deep Fakes etc.,
- and only **ONE** technology/system/AI system, and one sectorial application/industry e.g. sports, food, travel etc.

#### Submission and Deliverables :

Students are required to submit:

- an electronic copy (Word or PDF) of the report via Moodle by 08 March 2023 (cut-off at 5pm).  
Files should be submitted using the following naming format “Student Name-Ethics report title”.
- ✓ The word count for the report must be between 2,500 and 3,000 words excluding references.
- Students are required to submit the summary and their findings of the report in a form of infographic or short video.
    - ✓ Infographic size : you can choose any standard size of vertical Infographic, or
    - ✓ Video : 1.5 -30 min video saved in MP4, MOV, WMV, or AVI format

The following marking guidelines for this assignment will apply subject to the grade descriptors in Appendix A of this document:

- **Structure and housekeeping (5%)**
  - Is the report professionally presented?
  - Does the report have clear and consistent structure, layout, table of contents, visuals, tables etc.?
  - Does the student adopt a consistent style throughout, correct spelling and grammar?
  - Does the essay contain a complete, ordered and properly formatted list of references? E.g. Harvard Style.

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- **Executive Summary and Introduction (20%)**
  - Does the student properly summarise the objective(s) and the context of the report?
  - Does the student properly summarise the framework adopted and the outcome?
  - Does the student expand on the purpose and context of report?
- **Academic literature (30%)**
  - Does the LR feature current material?
  - Has the LR sufficient focus and depth or is it too thin and broad?
  - Does the student “handle” or organise the literature creatively (e.g. thematically or in terms of different strands/sides of an argument)?
  - Is the student critically aware of literature sources? E.g. is the article based on empirical work, does the author address competing views on the issue in question, is the author biased?
- **Analysis and discussion (20%)**
  - Did the student select an appropriate theoretical framework?
  - Does the student use the framework to critically analyse the issues identified with appropriate reference to relevant academic and practitioner literature?
- **Recommendation (15%)**
  - Does the student make offer recommendation, ethical framework/principles to avoid this ethical issue?
- **Conclusion (10%)**
  - Does the essay have a conclusion?
  - Is the conclusion clearly linked to the objectives of the report?
  - Is the conclusion based persuasively on the literature and evidence presented?

## 2.2 Organizational Ethical Report (50% of overall grade)

Students are required to develop an Organisational Ethical Report as follows:

- Create a fictional IT organisation/company (that can be based on a real one), describing it in 1000-1500 words (size of org, number of staff, profit, turnover, type of business, etc.).
- Imagine you have been approached by this organisation to do an ethics check-up on them, and you have to write a report of between 3000-3500 words that should include the Organisation Description about (1000-1500 words)
- The report should include the fictional outcomes of filling out the following checksheets:
  - ✓ Microsoft AI Fairness Checklist, the ALTAI, and a DPIA (but stated as sentences),
  - ✓ Identify two additional similar checksheets related to ethics within an organisation, at a data level, an AI level, a broader IT check, a policy level, or a staff level.

**Submission and Deliverables :**

Students are required to submit:

1. an electronic copy (Word or PDF) of the report via Moodle by 26 April 2023 (cut-off at 5pm). Files should be submitted using the following naming format “Student Name- report title”.
- ✓ The word count for the report must be between 3,000 and 3,500 words excluding references
  - ✓ The structure of the report is up to the student to decide, but make sure to include all the required deliverables mentioned above

**2.2 Interactive/case session participation (20% of overall grade)**

This is an on-going assessment, students are expected to participated in the discussion during the interactive session, work on groups, make presentation and create debate panels to discuss ethical issues in IT/AI.

- ✓ Every Friday (interactive session), the lecturer will introduce the case/scenario, and students start the discussion, or form a group to present one ethical case in the class.
- ✓ Students required, in some cases, to prepare the case/debate and read supplementary material, reports, or articles during or before the session.

### Appendix A. The lists of grades band

GRADE	PERCENTAGE BAND	CREDITS AWARDED	INDICIATIVE QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE
A	80 – 100	Yes	Excellent
B+	70 < 79	Yes	Very Good
B	60 < 69	Yes	Good
B-	55 < 59	Yes	Above Average
C+	50 < 54	Yes	Fair
C	40 < 49	Yes	Pass
D	35 < 39	Yes	Poor
F	< 34	No	Fail
I	Yes	Deferral of result or Incomplete	
X	yes	Student exempted from the learning of the modules because of previous equivalent learning	
W		Withdrew	
NP		Absent / Not Present	