

## CIS150 - Fundamentals of Information Systems Spring Semester - 2016

### Essay 3 - Case of the Killer Robot (25 points)

This essay assignment is intended to be done individually by each student, not collaboratively. To begin with, you must read the rather lengthy PDF that accompanies these instructions in Blackboard. Alternatively, you can read the detailed scenario by clicking on the following URL to access the Case of the Killer Robot as developed by the Online Ethics Center:

<http://www.onlineethics.org/Resources/Cases/killerrobot.aspx>

When you read this fictional, but quite plausible, case study, you will be introduced to the following key characters:

*Randy Samuels (Programmer)*  
*Cindy Yardley (Software Tester)*  
*User Interface (UI) Design Team*  
*Bart Matthews (Robot Operator)*

*Sam Reynolds (CX30 Project Manager)*  
*Ray Johnson (Robotics Division Chief)*  
*Michael Waterson (CEO of Silicon Techtronics)*  
*Cybernetics, Inc. (company that used the robot)*

You might also want to take another look at pages 2-10 of the **Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools** document that has been linked into Blackboard in the **Course Documents > Test 1** folder as a reminder of the important elements of Critical Thinking. You might also want to briefly review the associated presentation from class as well as visit the UofL link for the Critical Thinking model, aka [Paul-Elder Framework](#).

The key objective here is to respond to each of the following:

- Identify the one single person (or entity) in this case from the list above that you believe is **most** responsible for the death of Bart Matthews and fully explain your reasoning why. (*one-half page, worth 5 points*)
- Identify the one single person (or entity) in this case from the list above that you believe is **least** responsible for the death of Bart Matthews and thoroughly explain your rationale. (*one-half page, worth 5 points*)
- Describe your normative recommendation for resolving key problems presented in *Case of the Killer Robot*. That is, explain what actions you would recommend to fully resolve the ethical dilemma or issues. Explain the basis of your normative recommendation and provide justification. (*one full page, worth 10 points*)
- Comply with the content and format specifications for this Assignment as noted in the instructions (*5 points*)

Begin your essay by creating an outline centered on these two perspectives and then organize your thoughts before you actually start writing the essay. Develop your summary using full sentences organized into paragraphs. Provide three distinct section headings. Provide at least a half page for each of the required responses. Please note that you should try to minimize writing about potential "legal" liabilities that may be involved. Instead, you should focus on the "ethical dilemma" of how the actions of each character portrayed in this case affected the final outcome (i.e., the death of Bart).

Your essay must include a cover page somewhat similar to the one shown directly below - you can use a bit of editorial license! Be sure to replace the text and italicized parenthesis with the requested information. Also, provide a header with the assignment title and page number along with a footer which has the course/section and due date. Be sure to formally cite any references you use. The body of your paper should be no more than two (2) pages in length (excluding the cover page) using a Segoe UI or Calibri font style in a size 11, with 1.5 line spacing, and 1" margins all the way around.

#### Essay 3 - Case of the Killer Robot

Name:           *(Student Name)*  
Course:        CIS150-xx *(section)*  
Date:           *(Due Date)*

Be sure to save your completed document with a file name that begins with your first and middle initial(s), then your last name, followed by a dash, and finally the text string "Essay-4" before the ".docx" file extension associated with Microsoft Word 2007 (or more recent). Do not convert your final draft document into Adobe PDF format. Points will be deducted for any significant spelling or grammar issues. Lastly, post your completed digital file into Blackboard under the **Submit Work Here** folder for grading purposes by the due date and time noted in the *Course Schedule* as well as in **My Grades**.  
**Note: Bring a printed copy of your Essay 3 document to class as noted for discussion with other students on your team.**