CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
CPSC315 - Professional Ethics in Computing
Fall 2024 Course Syllabus

Course Description:

Ethics and moral philosophy as applied to software and digital artifacts. Notions of rights, responsibilities, property, ownership, privacy, security, and professional ethics. Security obligations. Intellectual property statutes, licenses, and their terms. Oral and written reports are required. Learning Goals

Student learning outcome:

1. Develop a framework to scaffold ongoing analysis and understanding of generally accepted professional ethics. (eg ACM, IEEE guidelines)
2. Cooperate effectively on a group project.
3. Demonstrate ability to receive constructive feedback and take corrective action.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethics appropriate to computer scientists
5. Demonstrate an understanding of Intellectual property laws and ethics, software licenses, and commensurate rights and responsibilities.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of issues of security, privacy, and/or trust as they relate to software systems.
7. Write clear documentation with an appropriate tone.
8. Deliver clear oral presentations with an appropriate tone.
9. Demonstrate informedness of the role of computing in the world's events.
10. Analyze in paper or presentation the impact of computing in an area (ex. banking and finance, personal relationship, automobile, privacy, crime, etc)

Prerequisites

CPSC 131; Computer Science or Computer Engineering major or minor; or Computer Science or Computer Engineering graduate standing. Undergraduate Course not available for Graduate Credit

Instructor

Sara Ghadami
   Office Hours: **By appointment only via Zoom**
   Phone: (657) 278-7022
E-mail: sghadami@fullerton.edu

Response Time

I try to respond to all emails within **two working days (48 hours),** (but occasionally may take longer than that). Plan accordingly, especially around deadlines. Also, please keep it in mind that *Sat is my off day.*

Important Dates

24-Aug	Saturday	First day of classes
2-Sep	Monday	Labor Day - **CAMPUS CLOSED**
11-Nov	Monday	Veterans Day - **CAMPUS CLOSED**
November 26 - December 1	Tuesday-Sunday	Fall Recess - **NO CLASSES**
		CAMPUS OPEN 11/26-27
		CAMPUS CLOSED 11/28-12/1
13-Dec	Friday	Last day of classes

Tuesday	9/10	Last day to drop classes without a grade of "W"
Monday	9/23	Last day to submit a Late Add Request with a $20 Late Add Fee
Friday	11/15	Last day to submit a withdrawal request with a grade of "W" for a serious and compelling reason

Textbooks

Ethics for the Information Age, 8th edition
Published by Pearson (March 4, 2019) © 2020
Michael J. Quinn
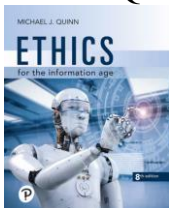
- o [The GNU Manifesto](#) , Richard Stallman
- o [Open Source Licenses](#) , Open Source Initiative
- o [On the Duty of Civil Disobedience](#) , David Henry Thoreau

Additional Course material

I may introduce additional reading assignments or online videos throughout the course. Typically, I will provide them via hyperlink, a PDF file, or a citation you can use in order to find the item electronically in our library.

Grading

Plus and minus grading will be used when determining final grades in a way that the upper third of each grade bracket will be assigned a plus and the lower third a minus.

Grade	% of Total Points
A	$93\% \leq X$
A−	$90\% \leq X < 93\%$
B+	$87\% \leq X < 90\%$
B	$83\% \leq X < 87\%$
B−	$80\% \leq X < 83\%$
C+	$77\% \leq X < 80\%$
C	$73\% \leq X < 77\%$
C−	$70\% \leq X < 73\%$
D+	$67\% \leq X < 70\%$
D	$60\% \leq X < 67\%$
F	$X < 60\%$

Category

Category	% Of Final Grade
Discussion boards – Weekly Class activities – Book chapters	20%
Project 1: Ethical Analysis of a New Gadget or Device	10%
Project 2 + Presentation	20%
Exams (5 total)	50%

Discussion Boards and Weekly Class Activities 20%

Category Overview: This category, which includes discussion boards, weekly class activities, and assigned readings, constitutes 20% of the final grade. Active participation and engagement in these activities are crucial for success in this course.

Discussion Boards:

- **Weekly Group Discussions:** Each week, students will participate in group discussions on the discussion boards. These discussions are designed to encourage engagement with the course material, promote critical thinking, and facilitate collaborative learning.
- **Posting Requirements:** Every Wednesday, a discussion prompt related to the week's readings and topics will be posted on the discussion board. Students are required to write an initial response to the prompt and then respond to at least two of their classmates' posts.
- **Grading Criteria:** Participation will be graded based on the quality and thoughtfulness of your initial post and responses to others. Simply agreeing or disagreeing with a classmate's post without providing a substantial reason or additional insight will not earn full credit.

Weekly Class Activities:

- **In-Class Engagement:** Weekly class activities may include group projects, case studies, role-playing, and other interactive exercises. These activities are designed to enhance understanding of the course material and provide practical applications of ethical theories and concepts.
- **Participation:** Active participation in these activities is expected. Students should come prepared to discuss the readings and engage fully in class exercises.
- **Additional Assignments:** Occasionally, there may be short assignments or tasks related to class activities. These will be announced in class or on the course website.

Assigned Readings:

- **Weekly Readings:** Each week, students are required to read the assigned chapters from the textbook, *Ethics for the Information Age* (8th edition), as well as any additional readings provided by the instructor.
- **Reading Reflection:** Students should be prepared to discuss the readings during class activities and to incorporate concepts from the readings into their discussion board posts.

Participation and Engagement:

- **Consistent Participation:** Regular participation in discussion boards, class activities, and thorough preparation for each class by completing the assigned readings are essential for a full understanding of the course material and for earning full participation credit.
- **Contribution to Learning:** Students are encouraged to actively contribute to the learning environment by sharing their insights, asking questions, and engaging respectfully with their classmates' perspectives.

By actively participating in the discussion boards, completing weekly activities, and keeping up with the readings, students will not only earn a significant portion of their final grade but will also gain a deeper understanding of the ethical issues and challenges in the field of information technology.

Project 1: Ethical Analysis of a New Gadget or Device 10%

Category Overview: Project 1 is worth 10% of your final grade and focuses on analyzing the ethical implications of a new or emerging gadget or device. You will choose a technology that interests you and explore the ethical issues surrounding its use.

Project Description:

- **Topic Selection:** Students will select a new gadget or device to analyze. The chosen topic should not be repetitive of those already discussed in class or covered by other students. The gadget or device can be from any area of technology, such as consumer electronics, medical devices, smart home technology, or wearable tech.
- **Ethical Analysis:** The core of the project is to conduct a thorough ethical analysis of the selected gadget or device. Students should consider various ethical issues, including but not limited to privacy, security, accessibility, potential for misuse, societal impact, and environmental concerns.
- **Course Relevance:** The project should relate to the ethical theories and concepts covered in the course, such as utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics, as well as topics like intellectual property, data privacy, and professional ethics.

Project 2 + Presentation 20%:

- ### Option1: Developing an Ethical Framework for a Hypothetical Tech Company

  For this project, you will create an ethical framework for a hypothetical tech company. The framework should guide the company's decisions and practices in relation to ethical issues in technology. Your group will present this framework to the class in a 20-30 minute presentation.

- ### Option2: Case Study Analysis of a Real-World Ethical Dilemma in Technology
  This will be an in-depth analysis of a real-world ethical dilemma faced by a technology company. This project is designed to give you the opportunity to explore how ethical theories are applied in real-life situations and to critically analyze the decisions made by companies. You will research a case, analyze the ethical issues involved, and present your findings to the class in a 20-30 minute presentation.

Exams 50%

All exams in this course will be closed book. Students are not allowed to use any notes, electronic devices, textbooks, or any other resources during the exams. **There will be NO study guide provided for this course.**

Email Communication Guidelines

- **Subject Line:** Please include your class section and course ID in the subject line (e.g., CPSC315-xx). Emails without the section number will be disregarded.
- **CSUF Email Account:** You must use your CSUF email account for all communications. This is the only way I can contact you outside of class. Check your CSUF email frequently for important announcements and messages. I aim to respond to all emails within two working days, but please plan accordingly, especially around deadlines.
- **Email Format:** When emailing me, ensure your email includes:
  1. **Subject Line:** A meaningful and relevant subject.
  2. **Salutation:** Use a proper salutation (e.g., "Dear Professor [Last Name]"). Avoid nicknames or first names.
  3. **Clarity:** Keep your email clear and concise. I may receive many emails daily, so please focus on your questions or concerns.
  4. **Attachments:** Mention any attachments in your email.
  5. **Identification:** Include your full name, class information, and CWID.

  Note: Do not email assignment solutions. They will not be checked via email.

Contacting the Instructor:

- **Communication Tools:**
  - **Announcements:** Regularly check for updates.
  - **Ask My Professor:** Seek support from peers and instructors.
  - **Virtual Meetings:** Schedule during office hours if needed.
  - **Email:** For course-related concerns, use the guidelines above. Check Titanium frequently and avoid asking questions that are answered on the course page.

Make-Up Policy:

- Exams and quizzes must be taken as scheduled. If you must miss an exam, presentation, or assignment deadline, you must arrange an alternative in advance.

Recording & Transcription Policy:

- Recording of class content is not allowed unless permitted under the Americans with Disabilities Act or other applicable laws.

Course Rules & Classroom Management:

- **Classroom Conduct:**
  - No eating during lectures.
  - Stay informed about course announcements and deadlines.
  - Late submissions are not accepted.
  - Do not use third-party work without prior instructor consent. Document all sources if consent is granted.
- **Zoom Rules:**
  - No recording, screenshots, or capturing of any content, including meetings, participants, or their work.

- **Additional Rules:**

  o No electronic devices are permitted during exams.
  o Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Penalties for cheating range from receiving a zero on the exam to receiving an "F" for the course.
  o Exams are CLOSED notes, CLOSED book, and CLOSED neighbor. This means that collaboration or any form of assistance while taking an exam is strictly prohibited.

- **Exam Rules:**

  o **Items Prohibited:** Cell phones, Flash drives or external memory, Notes or books, Calculators, Watches , Hats, Earphones, Talking to other students.

Academic Dishonesty:

- **Definitions and Penalties:**
  o **Cheating:** Includes using unauthorized aids, plagiarism, and tampering with grading. Violations can result in severe penalties, including an F in the course.
  o **Plagiarism:** Taking work from others without proper citation. Always acknowledge sources appropriately.

Accommodating Disabilities:

- Students requiring accommodations should register with the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) in UH-101 and contact the instructor during the first week of classes.

Emergency Procedures:

- **Emergency Calls:** Dial 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, call (657) 278-2515. For recorded emergency information, call (657) 278-0911 or (657) 278-4444.

Student IT Help Desk and Titanium Support:

- **TITANium Resource Center:** Find FAQs and step-by-step instructions at TITANium Help.
- **Student IT Help Desk:** Provides support for campus technologies.
  o **Phone:** 657-278-8888
  o **Email:** StudentITHelpdesk@fullerton.edu
  o **Chat:** Via Portal, click on Online IT Help

Library Information:

- **Library Administration:** libadmin@fullerton.edu | (657) 278-2714
- **Library Policies:** Library Guidelines

Instructional Continuity:

- In case of disruptions such as epidemics or natural disasters, monitor Titanium and your CSUF email for updates and instructions.