

Computer Ethics (English)

Spring 2014

BLG412E

Weeks 7 and 8: Intellectual Property

Contents of today's lecture

Essay advice.

- Can I use opinion in my essay?
- How do I use facts?
- What is analysis and how is it done?
- So what's the aim?
- Any ideas for this essay?

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Office hour: <http://djduff.net/my-schedule>

Essay advice:

1. Opinions

- ♦ "How might I be wrong?"
- ♦ Consider necessary & sufficient conditions for opinion's truth.
- ♦ Discuss counterpoints.
- ♦ Consider multiple views.
- ♦ Provide evidence for claims.
- ♦ Consider in light of theory.

Essay advice:

2. Facts

- ♦ Factual claims:
 - ♦ provide source/evidence.
- ♦ Disputable claims:
 - ♦ discuss ramifications if wrong.
 - ♦ discuss evidence for alternative versions.

Essay advice:

3. Analysis

Improving state of knowledge by asking pointed questions, and working to answer them.

- ♦ Compare facts to claims.
- ♦ Consider/compare different definitions.
- ♦ Consider ramifications of opinions/acts.
- ♦ Consider compatibility of different perspectives.
- ♦ Look for contradictions.
- ♦ Compare theory/intention to realisation.
- ♦ Etc.

Example questions

Essay advice:

4. Principles and theories

What principles and theories have we looked at in class / might be relevant?

Deontology
Social Contract (Hobbes' or Rousseau's or Rawls')
Freedom of Speech.
Privacy.
Security.
Social Value.
Realpolitik.
Asymmetry of knowledge.
Power dynamics.
Consequentialism.
Democracy.

Principles of analytical essay writing

1. There is an answer.
2. It is worthwhile trying to achieve it.
3. Analysis is a great tool for this.
4. This essay won't find it.
 - ♦ But it might look at some candidates.
 - ♦ The process is important.

What I want from you

- ♦ Do some analysis.
 - ♦ Make one step forward.
 - ♦ Not necessary to solve the world.
- ♦ Be scholarly:
 - ♦ Use appropriate resources.
 - ♦ Employ evidence, back up claims.
 - ♦ Evaluate multiple positions.
- ♦ Want to solve the world in this essay?
 - ♦ That's fine too.