

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

IS 304 Ethical Issues in Information Systems

Sec 1: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 – 2:15

Syllabus for Spring Semester 2017

Instructor: Mr. Richard Sponaugle

E-mail: sponaugle@umbc.edu

Office: ITE 409 Phone: 410-455-1850

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:30 Wednesdays 5 – 6:30 or by appointment

Text: (A) Reynolds, Ethics in Information Technology, 5th Edition.

Course Objective: IS 304 - Ethical Issues in Information Systems (AH). [3]

A survey course that reviews the ethical impact of information systems and related technology throughout the world. The course examines the policy issues that relate to the use of information systems, such as persona, privacy, rights of access, security, transborder data flow and confidentiality.

IS 304 fulfills an Arts & Humanities (AH) GEP requirement.

FUNCTIONAL COMPETENCIES:

1. Oral and written communication
The course requires written and oral critical analysis of complex ethical questions. The semester project paper requires students to identify, select, and evaluate appropriate source material.
2. Critical analysis and reasoning
The course requires students to evaluate the issues of current ethical dilemmas using traditional and modern ethical theories.
3. Information literacy
Students identify, retrieve, and evaluate a variety of information sources to support the arguments in their essays and project.

Grading:

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Project (Paper / Presentation)	20%
Articles	6%
Homework Assignments	12%
In class mini exam	4%
Peer Evaluations & Class Participation	10%
In Class Group Activity	3%

Exams: There will be two take home exams in the course. The mid-term will be given out March 16 and due back at start of class 3/30. The final take-home exam will be due no later than 5:00 pm on May 16. The exam questions will be designed to elicit critical thinking and are to be completed individually. Students are on their honor and any evidence of collaboration on the exams will result in a zero grade. Exams are based on lectures and readings.

Articles: As part of our exploration of ethical issues in the real world all students are expected to find, read and evaluate newspaper articles related to the course topic. Each student is required to share articles for class discussion at least two times over the course of the semester. The first article must be presented by February 28 and the second by April 11. A short abstract or a copy of the article is to be turned in at the time of presentation. Time permitting students may chose to present a third article for extra credit.

Project: There will be a semester long research project. Each student will choose a philosopher and do scholarly research on their subject's thoughts on ethics. Using the Internet is not enough. Additional information on acceptable topics will be discussed during the first class. Each student will submit the name and a short biographical sketch (one or two paragraphs) of their chosen philosopher no later than the third week of class. Failure to have your topic approved as scheduled will result in a grade reduction for the project.

Paper: Students will prepare a paper detailing their research findings. The paper should be approximately 10 pages. Note papers that do not have proper citations within the text to indicate the source of ideas will be considered to be plagiarized. The paper is due by the beginning of class on May 4.

Presentation: Students will prepare and give a professional in-class presentation about the philosopher's ideas on ethics. Appropriate audio-visual techniques are to be used. The presentation will be no less then six minutes and no more then ten minutes long. Presentation slots will be assigned randomly approximately the third week of class.

Peer Evaluations: All students are required to submit thoughtful honest evaluations of their fellow student's presentations. These evaluations will be used to help me evaluate the presentations. Students will be graded on the quality of the analysis provided.

Mini Exam: There will be a mini exam given in class on February 23. The main purpose of this exam will be to familiarize students with the type of questions and answer expectations for the midterm.

Homework Assignments: There will be special assignments given periodically during the semester.

Blackboard: All PowerPoint slides and assignments will be posted on Blackboard. All students are expected to check Blackboard regularly for course announcements.

Make-up Exams: Missed exams will result in a grade of 0. If you know that you will be absent on the day of the mini exam, please notify me as far in advance as possible. If the reason for your absence is compelling and documented, you may be given a make-up exam. If you miss an exam because of an extreme emergency, contact me as soon as possible. If I agree that your emergency was, indeed, extreme, and it can be documented, a make-up exam will be given. If a make-up exam is given it will contain a different set of questions then the exam given to the

class. You have two weeks outside of class to complete the midterm and final exams and therefore they cannot be made up.

NO COMMUNICATION DEVICES WILL BE ON AND OPERATING DURING CLASS.

Lap Tops / Tablets may be used for note taking only. Cell phones must be off or silenced and not answered during class. Web surfing, texting or any other use of communication devices in class, will result in you being banned from using electronic devices for any purpose.

Policies:

Grading:

IS instructors are expected to have evaluative instruments that result in a reasonable distribution of letter grades. With respect to final letter grades, the University's Undergraduate Catalogue states on page 31 that:

"A, indicates superior achievement

B, good performance

C, adequate performance

D, minimal performance

F, failure"

There is specifically no mention of any numerical scores associated with these letter grades. Consequently, there are no pre-defined numerical demarcations that determine final letter grades; these can be defined only at the end of the semester when all accumulated points are tallied and compared. In accordance with the published University grading policy, it is important to understand that final letter grades reflect academic achievement and not effort. While mistakes in the arithmetic computation of grades and grade recording errors will always be corrected, it is important to understand that in all other situations, final letter grades are not negotiable and challenges to final letter grades are not entertained. Grades are earned not given. It is expected that approximately 90% of the class will receive a grade of C or higher. This course may be taken on a pass/fail basis.

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. If you are not present for class you will receive a zero for class participation for that day. Therefore, excessive absence will result in a low class participation grade, which will affect your overall grade. You are responsible for all material presented in class and lecture notes (other than PowerPoint slides) will not be available.

Tardiness: Tardiness shows a lack of respect for both the instructor and your fellow classmates. Since you are preparing for a professional career, you need to develop professional habits. Students who habitually arrive late will have their class participation grade lowered.

Student Support Services

UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that disadvantage students based on disability. Student Support Services <http://www.umbc.edu/sss/html/sss_disab.htm> (SSS) is the UMBC department designated to receive and maintain confidential files of disability-related documentation, certify eligibility for services, determine reasonable accommodations, develop with each student plans for the provision of such accommodations, and serve as a liaison between faculty members and students regarding disability-related issues. If you have a

disability and want to request accommodations, contact SSS in the Math/Psych Bldg., room 213 or at 410-455-2459. SSS will require you to provide appropriate documentation of disability. If you require accommodations for this class, make an appointment to meet with me to discuss your SSS-approved accommodations."

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT:

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty and they are wrong. Academic misconduct will result in disciplinary action that may include failure of the course, suspension or dismissal.

To read the full policy on academic integrity, consult the UMBC Web site (<http://www.umbc.edu/provost/AcademicIntegrity/index.html>).

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading*</u>
1/31 – 2/2	Course Introduction / Introduction to Ethics	Chapter 1 Appendix A
2/7 – 2/9	Cyberethics	
2/14 – 2/16	Professionalism	Chapter 2 Appendices B - D
2/21	Arguments	
2/23	Mini Exam	
2/28 – 3/2	Cybercrime	Chapter 3
2/28	Last Day to present first article	
3/7	Privacy	Chapter 4
3/9	Freedoms	Chapter 5
3/14 – 3/16	Intellectual Property in Cyberspace	Chapters 6 & 7
3/21 – 3/23	Spring Break – No Class	
3/28	Equity and Access	Chapter 8
3/30	Mid Term Due	
3/30 – 4/4	Social Networking	Chapter 9
4/4 – 4/6	Regulating Cyberspace	Chapter 10
4/11	Last Day to present second article	
4/13 – 4/14 – 4/20	Ethics Group Activities	
4/25	Presentations	
4/27	Presentations	
5/2	Presentations	
5/4	Presentations / Paper Due	
5/9 – 5/11	Presentations	
5/16	Presentations /Take Home Final due	

*Readings should be completed before the scheduled class. All students are expected to be prepared to discuss the material in class.