Syllabus

Section 1: Course Information

Course Number	CMSC 304
Course Name	Social/Ethical Issues In Information Technology
Course Location	University Center 115
Course Meetings	Tuesday/Thursday 1-3:20pm
Term	Summer 2016
Course Prerequisites	CMSC 202

Instructor Name	Jeremy Dixon
Instructor Email	jdixon@umbc.edu
Instructor Office	ITE208
Instructor Office Hours	Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10am and 12noon -1pm

TA Name	Michael Neary
TA Email	mneary1@umbc.edu
TA Office	ITE 201E
TA Office Hours	TBD

Textbooks (optional)	Reynolds, G. (2016). Ethics in Information Technology. 5th Edition. Cengage Technology. ISBN - 9781285197159

Section 2: Course Overview

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

Section 3: Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are:

- Define ethical reasoning as it relates to computer science, and apply ethical principles to the profession of computer science.
- Understand key legal concepts related to computing and its use, including patent protection, digital copyright, cybersecurity, and software licensing.
- Understand the ACM Code of Ethics and the Software Engineering Code of Ethics and how these documents relate to theoretical ethical principles and professional and social responsibilities.

- Be able to identify and differentiate between ethical, social, and legal issues, and recognize their importance for CS professionals.
- Analyze cases and issues using ethical principles, professional standards, legal standards, economic consequences, and social effects.
- Given an issue or problem of ethical, social, legal, and/or economic relevance to the computing profession, analyze the relevant information, formulate an opinion, defend this opinion clearly in a written document or oral presentation, and understand and explain opposing perspectives.

As this is also a writing-intensive class, the following objectives are also required:

- Require effective writing for critical inquiry and/or the presentation of scholarly research.
- Require students to submit at least 3000-3750 words (12-15 standard [double-spaced] pages) of graded finished written assignments. (In-class tests, drafts, un-graded journals, exercises, and similar informal assignments are considered supplemental.)
- Provide opportunities for extensive feedback and/or revision, typically on two or more papers outside of class (if a single term paper is used, there must be an opportunity for a formal revision and feedback stage).
- Evaluate students on the basis of effective writing as well as content.
- Use class time to provide guidelines for written assignments and address effective writing in the academic discipline.
- Include consideration of the ways in which the principle and practice of academic integrity apply to written assignment (consistent with UMBC's Academic Integrity Policy).

Section 4: Grading Criteria

Assignment Type	Quantity	Points Per	Subtotal
Ethical Analyses	3	100pts	300pts
Paper	1	200pts	200pts
Midterm Exam	1	200pts	200pts
Participation/Attendance/In-Class Activities	1	250pts	250pts
Final Presentation	1	50pts	50pts
		Total	**1000 pts**

Grading Scale:

90 -100	A
80-90	B
70-80	C
60-70	D
<60	F

Section 5: Course Policies

Late Policy

Assignments must be submitted electronically to Blackboard by 2:30pm on the due date. Assignments submitted after 2:30 will be considered late and will be penalized as follows:

- 0-24 hours late: 25% penalty
- 24-48 hours late: 50% penalty
- 48-72 hours late: 75% penalty
- More than 72 hours late: No credit

All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard (no hardcopies will be accepted). The timestamp on Blackboard will be used to evaluate lateness.

Extensions for well justified reasons may be made by written request, well in advance of the deadline. Typically such extensions are only granted once per student per semester, and only up to one week. Extensions are not automatic. Last-minute requests, or requests for extensions at or after the deadline, will be denied other than in the most extenuating circumstances. Written documentation of extenuating circumstances (serious illness, death in the family) will be required.

Section 6: Attendance

As a discussion-based class, your attendance in class in required. Attendance will be taken every day as will your engagement. In order to measure this, each student will be given an index card that will be collected either after a meaningful comment is made or at the end of class. Students who do not attend or participate in class will not do will in this class. As per the scoring matrix above, 25% of your final grade are based on attendance, participation, and discussion.

Section 7: Communication

All communication with your professor should be through your UMBC email as per the dictation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Emails should contain the

course name in the subject line as well as the topic. For example, CMSC 304 – Question about Final Paper. Emails not following this format may not be answered.

Please feel free to come to office hours or schedule an individual meeting with me. I generally have an open-door policy regarding academic questions.

Section 8: Academic and Technology Resources

In general, for this class, you should be seeking additional help via research. This is a writing-intensive class with a strong research component. If you have specific questions, feel free to come to my office hours or set up an appointment with me. Another resource is your TA. Contact information for your TA is in section 1 above.

For help with your writing, you can also visit the Writing Center or set up an appointment here: https://umbc.mywconline.com/

For technology support, you can contact the Technology Support Center (TSC) on the first floor of the Albin O. Kuhn library. For more information call 410-455-3838 or check out: http://doit.umbc.edu/tsc/

Section 9: Students with Accommodations

UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that may disadvantage students based on disability. UMBC complies with federal legislation for individuals with disabilities (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADAA of 2009) that offers reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Student Disability Services (SDS), formerly Student Support Services, 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 concerns.

If you have a documented disability and need to request academic accommodations, please refer to the SDS website at sss.umbc.edu or contact the office by phone at 410-455-2459, via email at sss@umbc.edu, or in person in Math/Psychology Room 213. If you require accommodations for this class, make an appointment to meet with me to discuss your SDS-approved accommodations.

Section 10: Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity

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. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they will not be allowed in this course. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult the UMBC Student Handbook, the Faculty Handbook, or the UMBC Policies section of the UMBC Directory. [Statement adopted by UMBC's Undergraduate Council and Provost's Office.]

Individual Assignments

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Unless otherwise indicated, **all assignments are to be your own work**. You may discuss the assignments with anyone. Written answers on all assignments (including exams, essays, ethical analyses, and research papers) must be your own work. Plagiarism (copying) of any source, including another student's work or the assigned readings for the course, is not acceptable. In this course, self-plagiarism (recycling your own papers or parts of your own papers) is also explicitly forbidden. **All submitted assignments will be checked using SafeAssign.** SafeAssign is a tool that is built into Blackboard that will help us identify individuals who are incorrectly attributing sources and/or plagiarizing.

Group assignments

Some written assignments will be group assignments that are to be submitted by a group of two or more students. When submitting such an assignment, the same rules regarding plagiarism and academic honesty apply, except that the submitted work must be the work of the students as a group. Moreover, by submitting a group assignment, each student is representing that the assignment is the work of the entire group, and they take full responsibility for the originality and content of the assignment.

Note that the group assignment policy means that if a student in a group makes no contribution to the assignment, the rest of the group should not "cover" for them by including their name on the assignment. Rather, the rest of the group should notify the instructor by email that the absent student did not contribute, and should cc that student on the email.

Sources and Citations

If you wish to quote a source, you must do so explicitly, using quotation marks and proper citation at the point of the quote. A useful guideline is that if more than two or three words in a row are the same in your report as in the original source, and you have not quoted and properly cited them, you have plagiarized.

Fabricating sources or any other information in your assignments is academically dishonest and will be considered a violation of the academic integrity policy.

If you are unfamiliar with references and citations, please review this site: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

If you still are unsure how to use APA for research and citations, please contact me ASAP for additional suggestions.

Aiding and Abetting

Providing another student with answers, or helping them to cheat, is an equally serious violation of the principles of academic integrity. A student who commits such an offense is subject to the same penalties as the student who cheated.

Penalties

The consequence for any infraction of this policy is, at a minimum, a zero grade for the entire assignment. In addition, in order to pass the course, the student will be required to recomplete the assignment honestly. As per UMBC policy, any changes to a student's grade due to a violation of the academic integrity policy must be reported through the academic integrity database (AIDB). Consequences for more serious infractions of this policy, or for second offenses, may include, but are not limited to, receiving a failing grade in the course or being suspended or expelled from the university.

Section 11: Schedule

This schedule is tentative and may change.

Class	Date	Topic	Chapter	Assignments Due
1	Tuesday, May 31, 2016	Introduction to Class and Ethics	1	
2	Thursday, June 02, 2016	Ethical Frameworks + Activity	1	
3	Tuesday, June 07, 2016	Professional Ethics	2	
4	Thursday, June 09, 2016	Computer and Internet Crime	3	Ethical Analysis 1 Draft
5	Tuesday, June 14, 2016	Privacy	4	Ethical Analysis 1 Final
6	Thursday, June 16, 2016	Freedom of Expression	5	
7	Tuesday, June 21, 2016	Intellectual Property	6	
8	Thursday, June 23, 2016	Software Development	7	Ethical Analysis 2 Draft
9	Tuesday, June 28, 2016	Social Networking	8	Ethical Analysis 2 Final
10	Thursday, June 30, 2016	Midterm Exam		
11	Tuesday, July 05, 2016	Ethics of IT Organizations	9	Ethical Analysis 3 Draft
12	Thursday, July 07, 2016	TBD		Ethical Analysis 3 Final
13	Tuesday, July 12, 2016	TBD		
14	Thursday, July 14, 2016	Student Presentations		
15	Tuesday, July 19, 2016	Student Presentations		
16	Thursday, July 21, 2016	Student Presentations		Final Paper Due