

Syllabus

Course Number: CIS 318

Course Title: Ethics for Information Technology Professionals

Course Description:

Focuses on ethical problems that arise in the Information Technology world. Covers the areas of IT crime, privacy, intellectual property, software development and employer/employee issues. Introduces the codes of ethics for various IT professional associations and organizations.

Prerequisite Courses:

None

Course Overview

This course focuses on ethical problems that arise in an information technology setting. The course emphasizes the individual decision-maker in the entry-level position as well as at the managerial level. The course studies the various philosophical and social/psychological decision systems that managers and employees alike can use to resolve ethical problems.

Ethics can be a very complex and contradictory concept to learn and study. Many individuals spend their lifetimes exploring ethics and its application in society. This course is an introductory course in ethics. The focus is on ethical concerns and issues related to the areas of Information Technology.

Course Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, learners should be able to:

- Identify and illustrate ethical theories and decision-making models, and relate these theories and models to ethics in computer science/information systems.
- Describe and demonstrate knowledge of ethical codes and their relationship and impact on IT professionals.
- Explain trade-offs between ethical issues and the need for computer security. Review privacy laws and explain the need for ethical behavior in protecting personal and business privacy.
- Summarize freedom of expression laws and identify issues associated with freedom of expression and information technology. Explain the term *intellectual property*, illustrate

how intellectual property is protected, and describe the role of information technology in both the exploitation and protection of intellectual property.

- Identify the role of ethical issues in the development of computer software.
- Understand the impact of information technology on productivity and quality of life, and identify ethical concerns regarding the digital divide.
- Define social networks and explain ethical issues concerning their use in business.
- Describe the need for ethical practices in business-related IT activities in the areas of outsourcing/off shoring, the environment, and reporting illegal/unethical behavior.

Course Materials:

Required Texts:

Reynolds, George W. (2015). *Ethics in Information Technology*. (5th edition) United States: Cengage Learning. Print ISBN-13: 978-1-285-19715-9

Technology Tools:

Adobe Acrobat Reader

RealPlayer (to watch the video presentations)

Pre-Assignment:

Online Format: Sign on to WorldClass (Home Page) and become familiar with the course navigation of the Online Curriculum. Read Chapter 1 of Reynolds text.

Classroom-based Format: Read Chapter 1 of Reynolds text.

Pre-Assignment Due Dates:

Classroom-based Format: This assignment is due the first night of class.

Online Format: The instructor will specify the due date for this assignment.

Course Assignments and Activities:

	Topics	Readings	Activities/Assignments
1	Introduction to Ethics	Text: Chapter 1 Online Course: From The Expert	Class Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions, video, case study, course project overview Written Assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper - Ethical Theories
2	Ethical Behavior of IT Professionals and Users	Text: Chapter 2 Online Course: From The Expert	Class Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video, case study Course Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin work on Course Project

3	Computer and Internet Crime/Privacy	Text: Chapters 3 & 4 Online Course: From The Expert	Class Discussion: • Video, case study Written Assignment: • Paper - Computer Crime
4	Freedom of Expression and Intellectual Property	Text: Chapters 5 & 6 Online Course: From The Expert	Class Discussion: • Video, case study Course Project: • Work on Course Project Quiz 1 (Chapters 1 - 5)
5	Software Development	Text: Chapter 7 Online Course: From The Expert	Class Discussion: • Video, case study Written Assignment: • Paper - Google in China
6	IT Impact on Productivity and Quality of Life	Text: Chapter 8 Online Course: From The Expert	Class Discussion: • Video, case study Course Project: • Work on Course Project
7	Social Networking	Text: Chapter 9 Online Course: From The Expert	Class Discussion: • Video, case study Written Assignment: • Paper - Digital Divide
8	Ethics in IT Organizations	Text: Chapter 10 Online Course: From The Expert	Quiz 2 (Chapters 6 - 10) Course Project Due

Student Evaluation Grid:

Assignment	Value (percent of overall course grade)
Discussions/Participation	30%
Written Assignments (4 at 10% each)	40%
Quizzes (2 at 5% each)	10%
Course Project	20%

CC&IS Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A	93 to 100	4.00
A-	90 to less than 93	3.67
B+	87 to less than 90	3.33
B	83 to less than 87	3.00
B-	80 to less than 83	2.67
C+	77 to less than 80	2.33
C	73 to less than 77	2.00
C-	70 to less than 73	1.67
D+	67 to less than 70	1.33
D	63 to less than 67	1.00
D-	60 to less than 63	.67
F	Less than 60	0

Additional information about grading can be found in the latest edition of the University Catalog, available at <http://www.regis.edu/Academics/Course%20Catalog.aspx>.

CC&IS Policies and Procedures

Each of the following CC&IS Policies & Procedures is incorporated here by reference. Students are expected to review this information each term, and agree to the policies and procedures as identified here and specified in the latest edition of the University Catalog, available at <http://www.regis.edu/Academics/Course%20Catalog.aspx> or at the link provided.

- The CC&IS Academic Integrity Policy.
- The Student Honor Code and Student Standards of Conduct.
- Incomplete Grade Policy, Pass / No Pass Grades, Grade Reports.
- The Information Privacy policy and FERPA. For more information regarding FERPA, visit the [U.S. Department of Education](http://www.ed.gov).
- The HIPPA policies for protected health information. The complete Regis University HIPAA Privacy & Security policy can be found here: TBD
- The Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB) procedures. More information about the IRB and its processes can be found here: <http://regis.edu/Academics/Academic-Grants/Proposals/Regis-Information/IRB.aspx>.

The CC&IS Policies & Procedures Syllabus Addendum summarizes additional important policies including, Diversity, Equal Access, Disability Services, and Attendance & Participation that apply to every course offered by the College of Computer & Information Sciences at Regis University. A copy of the CC&IS Policies & Procedures Syllabus Addendum can be found here: <https://in2.regis.edu/sites/ccis/policies/Repository/CCIS%20Syllabus%20Addendum.docx>.