IS 350-003 Computers, Society & Ethics

Instructor: Mark Chiusano

Office: GITC 3901 D

Phone: 973-642-7106 (email preferred)

Email: chiusano@njit.edu

The following topics on computing ethics will be the subject of our discussions, assignment, and projects in this course:

1. Introduction to the Subject of Ethics

2. Ethics--Ethical Thinking, Ethical Theories, and Ethical Analysis

3. More Ethics--Intended Consequences, Unintended Consequences, and Tertiary Effects of an Action

4. Professionalism and Codes of Conduct

5. Social issues, Equity, Gender, and Web 2.0

6. Privacy and Civil Liberties

7. Computers and Government

8. Work, Robotics, and Green Computing

9. Cybercrime and Cybersecurity

10. History of Computing and Perspectives

11. Professional and Legal Responsibilities

12. Digital Intellectual Property

In addition, thought-provoking AI philosophy and ethics segments are integrated seamlessly into course modules throughout the semester, covering:

1. Ethical Challenges with the Design and Development of Intelligent Systems

2. Algorithmic Fairness

3. Artificial Intelligence and Education

4. Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare

5. Artificial Intelligence and Gaming

6. Privacy and Surveillance

7. Artificial Intelligence and Agriculture

8. Artificial Intelligence and Energy

9. Artificial Intelligence and Climate

10. Robots and Work

11. Artificial Intelligence and Transportation

12. Artificial Intelligence and Finance

13. Deepfake Video Technology

14. Generative AI

Please read and familiarize yourself with additional course syllabus details below.

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Examines the historical evolution of computer and information systems and explores their implications in the home, business, government, medicine and education. Topics include automation and job impact, privacy, and legal and ethical issues.

Prerequisites

This course is an upper-level course designed for juniors and seniors. As prerequisites, IS 350 requires an introductory course in computing, an introductory course in the social sciences, and an English composition course.

Course Goals

Upon the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain beneficial and detrimental ways in which computing affects people, including the primary and secondary effects, and intended and unintended consequences.

- Utilize theories of ethical decision-making and professional codes of ethics to analyze difficult situations with computing aspects.

- Find and critically evaluate relevant literature pertaining to a situation of concern.

- Communicate about difficult issues in the computing sciences.

This is an ambitious set of goals, which meets several of the requirements for an ABET accredited degree in the Computing Sciences.

Graded Coursework Categories and Weights

1.

    1. **Weekly Discussions** – We will engage in robust discussions on the topics covered each week via entries in the Discussion Forum. This includes course content as well as current events related to ethics and technology. For each discussion topic, you are expected to post one original entry and reply to two classmates' entries with substantive thoughts that add to the discussion. A simple post such as "I agree" or "I disagree" is not considered substantive and will not receive credit.

    2. **Weekly Quizzes** – To ensure you are prepared and understand the material, there is a short quiz most weeks on the relevant topics, typically covering the chapter for the week.

    3. **Ethical Analysis Assignment** – The only way to truly understand ethics is to apply ethical theories to real-world situations. Individuals will be responsible for reading and analyzing an ethical case scenario using the analysis protocol presented in class.

    4. **Current Events Assignment**– This is an individual assignment that focuses on an interesting and timely topic that you are assigned which demonstrates the impact of technology on society. There are several parts to this assignment. Key ones are to investigate a Current Events topic assigned to you to to create a recorded presentation on this topic

    5. **Group Debate** – As part of a team you will persuasively argue, in a debate format, about an ethical dilemma concerning technology. This will also be a **recorded presentation**. You will be assigned to a team, a topic, and position (pro or con).

    6. **Midterm Report**

    7. **Final Report**

Coursework Categories	Weight
Discussions	10%
Quizzes	10%
Ethical Analysis Assignment	10%
Current Events Assignment	15%
Group Debate Assignment	15%
Midterm Report	20%
Final Report	20%
Total	**100%**

Course Format

Most of the work will be at an individual pace, although there will be strict deadlines for each assignment. You will be responsible for reading the textbook and online materials, watching the videos, doing weekly postings and quizzes, and completing the major assignments and reports. All are mandatory. You will engage in other activities on-line, both individually and in a team.

Time Required – This course requires a significant amount of work to help you achieve these goals. On average, you need to set aside up to 10 hours a week for this course, including discussion postings, lecture reviews, online activities, reading, studying the materials, homework and team activities.

Lectures & Readings – The lecture slides cover the major course content, further elaborating on the textbook. The videos supplement the textbook with important and timely content. Readings further enrich the textbook lectures and videos.

Learning Management System – The extensive course materials and other information are prepared to provide you an organized and successful learning experience are all in Canvas.

[Course Textbook](#)

Michael J. Quinn, Ethics for the Information Age, 8th edition (2020).

It is about $40 for the online or downloadable PDF through [VitalSource](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) *while the bound textbook lists for more.*

If you have a hard copy of the previous edition, it may be *mostly good enough*, but the weekly quizzes will come from the latest edition which has some new material.

[Grading and Attendance](#)

Related Policies and Requirements

You can be *eligible* for an A if you do the following 3 things:

1. Post all assignments on time. Late assignments are not accepted.

2. Participate in online discussions. Discussions are a major part of the class. Late postings prevent replies from other students. All discussions must be posted before the due date.

3. For this course, the postings also count as attendance, but late postings will not be counted towards attendance.

If you will miss any assignment deadline or session, email me in advance. Otherwise, you will be disqualified from an A. (Emailing me does not necessarily earn back the A but is a required courtesy.)

Grading Scale:

A = 90 and up

B+ = 85 to 89

B = 80 to 84

C+ = 75 to 79

C = 70 to 74

D = 65 to 69

F = less than 65

Regarding the release of grades for course assignments:

For quizzes, grades will be released on the morning of each quiz deadline. Generally, the deadlines for quizzes are Sunday night at 11:59 PM, with a one-hour grace period (until 1:00 AM Monday morning). Thus, grades will be released on Monday morning. By then students would either have taken the quiz or it will be beyond the deadline to do so.

For discussions, grades will be released by the end of the week when these are due. This is because discussions will be graded manually as essays, which require more time before they are released.

Attendance, Absence, and Lateness Policy

You are expected to attend every class.

Attendance will be counted such that you are present for a week only if you post all required submissions to the week's Discussion Forum.

Attendance is taken such that you are present for a week only if you post all required submissions to the week's Discussion Forum.

Each student is permitted three absences during the semester. Additional absences will affect the student's grade by one letter lower.

If you are absent up to three (3) times without a medical excuse, no effect on your grade.

Four (4) times will cause your grade to be lowered by one letter grade.

Five (5) or more times will lead to an automatic failure.

Medical Excuses need to be reported to the Dean of Students, who will determine if the absence is valid or not.

The Instructor will then decide whether or not the absence will be excused.

[Grade Rebuttal](#)

Procedure

Timing: From the date the grades for each assignment are posted, you have up to 7 days to dispute a grade. After this period grade rebuttals will not be considered.

Addressing your email: Email the instructor using the email addresses in the syllabus.

Subject of your email: Use the email subject header "IS350 [Assignment Number] [Very Brief Reason]".

Body of your email: In the email body include:

1. Assignment Number/Type

   o If a discussion grade, then the week, subject of your posting, and whether it was the original post or a reply.

2. Student Name and UCID

3. Your current grade

4. Your desired grade

5. Your justification, following the instructions below

Justification using Grading Rubric/Template: You must clearly justify why you believe you should deserve a different grade. This is the most important part. You have to explain using the rubrics (grading template) provided for each assignment why you deserve a different grade.   If your justification is clear, well reasoned, and correct, and the desired grade matches your justification you will get the full credit.

- For example, if you believe you should get a 100 instead of a 70 and you justify it correctly, you will get the 100.

- However, if you instead deserved an 85 and asked for a 100, you won't get anything.

It's a "deserved amount or nothing" situation, so be truthful regarding the grade you think you deserve.

[Office Hours](#)

Please email me in Canvas or at chiusano@njit.edu if you have any questions or concerns.

Office hours for the professor are face to face or Zoom.

They will be on Monday 4:00 PM - 4:50 PM, Tuesday and Wednesday 10 AM - 11 AM

The Zoom link is:

https://njit-edu.zoom.us/j/4567830539?pwd=MDBUS3lKUlE3OU9FYnIxcHRjWHUxQT09

Use of AI:

An emerging related issue impacting all of us is the use of AI language models to generate new content, for example ChatGPT. The recommendation for this class on this subject is consistent with existing university policy on academic integrity.

It is fine to use AI-assisted tools for learning responsibly alongside your own critical thinking and writing skills. Such tools must not write your entire essays or assignments though. This kind of behavior is considered cheating and can result in serious consequences, including failing the assignment or the course, or even being expelled from the university.

Use generated content as a starting point to inform your work, brainstorm ideas, and prepare notes for your writings just as you do with your textbooks, library resources, and web materials. Also, there are instances when it may be necessary and appropriate to use text as written by others, including technology, which is acceptable when you include it within quotation marks and cite these sources in your work.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf

Links to an external site..

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Sep 4, 2023	Calendar Event [Labor Day. University Closed](#)	12am
Tue Sep 5, 2023	Calendar Event [First Day of Classes](#)	12am
Sun Sep 10, 2023	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 2](#)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 11, 2023	Calendar Event [Last Day for 100% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal](#)	12am
	Calendar Event [Last Day to Add/Drop a Class](#)	12am
Tue Sep 12, 2023	Calendar Event [W Grades Posted for Course Withdrawals](#)	12am
Sun Sep 17, 2023	Discussion Topic [Week 1 Discussion Forum: Introduce Yourself](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 2 Discussion Forum: 11-Step Process](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Plagiarism](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Alexis Discussion Forum](#)	to do: 11:59pm
Mon Sep 18, 2023	Calendar Event [Last Day for 90% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal - No Refund for Partial Withdrawal after this date](#)	12am
Sun Sep 24, 2023	Discussion Topic [Week 3 Discussion Forum: Bio Fuels - Ethical Analysis](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Ethical Challenges with the Design and Development of Intelligent Systems Discussion](#)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Oct 1, 2023	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 9](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Algorithmic Fairness Discussion](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [UNUSED--Week 4 Discussion Forum: Code of Ethics](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 4 Discussion Forum: The "Alexis Scenario" Part 2](#)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 2, 2023	Calendar Event [Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal](#)	12am
Sun Oct 8, 2023	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 3](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 5 Discussion Forum: Turkle Talk](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Deepfake Video Technology Discussion](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 15, 2023	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 5](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 6 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment [Current Events Presentation (Submit Document and Link here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Privacy and Surveillance Discussion](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 22, 2023	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 6](#)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	Discussion Topic [Week 7 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 23, 2023	Calendar Event [Last Day for 25% Refund, Full Withdrawal](#)	12am
Sun Oct 29, 2023	Quiz [Midterm Report (Submit here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment [Midterm Report (Submit here for Turnitin)](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 5, 2023	Discussion Topic [Debate for your classmates to see your team's presentation - submit the link to your recording](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment [Debate Recordings (Submit Recording Link here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment [UNUSED--Submit slides for Debate Recording](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 12, 2023	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 10](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [UNUSED--Week 10 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Robots and Work Discussion](#)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 13, 2023	Calendar Event [Last Day to Withdraw from Classes](#)	12am
Sun Nov 19, 2023	Quiz [Ethical Analysis Report Assignment (Submit here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 7](#)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	Discussion Topic [Week 11 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 21, 2023	Calendar Event [Thursday Classes Meet](#)	12am
Wed Nov 22, 2023	Calendar Event [Friday Classes Meet](#)	12am
Thu Nov 23, 2023	Calendar Event [Thanksgiving Recess Begins. No Classes](#)	12am
Sun Nov 26, 2023	Calendar Event [Thanksgiving Recess Ends](#)	12am
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 1](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 12 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 3, 2023	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 8](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 13 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 10, 2023	Quiz [Final Report (Submit here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 4](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [UNUSED--Week 14 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment [Final Report (Submit here for Turnitin)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Generative AI Discussion](#)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Dec 13, 2023	Calendar Event [Last Day of Classes](#)	12am
Thu Dec 14, 2023	Calendar Event [Reading Day 1](#)	12am
Fri Dec 15, 2023	Calendar Event [Reading Day 2](#)	12am
Sat Dec 16, 2023	Calendar Event [Saturday Classes Meet](#)	12am
Sun Dec 17, 2023	Calendar Event [Final Exams Begin](#)	12am
Sat Dec 23, 2023	Calendar Event [Final Exams End](#)	12am
Sun Sep 8, 2024	Discussion Topic [Alexis Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Ethical Challenges with the Design and Development of Intelligent Systems Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 1 Discussion Forum: Introduce Yourself](#)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 10, 2024	Assignment [Academic Engagement: Fall 2024](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 15, 2024	Discussion Topic [Algorithmic Fairness Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 2](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 2 Discussion Forum: 11-Step Process](#)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Sep 22, 2024	Discussion Topic [Artificial Intelligence and Agriculture Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Artificial Intelligence and Education Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 3 Discussion Forum: Bio Fuels Ethical Analysis](#)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 23, 2024	Calendar Event [Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal](#)	12am
Sun Sep 29, 2024	Discussion Topic [Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Ethical Analysis Assignment (Submit here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 9](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 4 Discussion Forum: The "Alexis Scenario" Part 2](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 6, 2024	Discussion Topic [Artificial Intelligence and Gaming Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 3](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 5 Discussion Forum: Turkle Talk](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 13, 2024	Assignment [Current Events Presentation (Submit Document and Link here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Privacy and Surveillance Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 5](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 6 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 20, 2024	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 6](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 7 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 27, 2024	Discussion Topic [Artificial Intelligence and Energy Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Midterm Report (Submit here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment [Midterm Report (Submit here for Turnitin)](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 3, 2024	Discussion Topic [Debate for your classmates to see your team's presentation - submit the link to your recording](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment [Debate Recordings (Submit Recording Link here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 10](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Robots and Work Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 4, 2024	Calendar Event [Last Day to Withdraw from Classes](#)	12am
Sun Nov 10, 2024	Discussion Topic [Artificial Intelligence and Climate Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Nov 17, 2024	Discussion Topic [Artificial Intelligence and Transportation Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 7](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 11 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 24, 2024	Discussion Topic [Artificial Intelligence and Finance Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 1](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 12 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 1, 2024	Discussion Topic [Deepfake Video Technology Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 8](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 13 Discussion Forum](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 8, 2024	Discussion Topic [Generative AI Discussion (FPD)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Quiz Chapter 4](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 15, 2024	Quiz [Final Report (Submit here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment [Final Report (Submit here for Turnitin)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [UNUSED--Ethical Analysis - 1](#)	

Date	Details	Due
	Quiz [UNUSED--Ethical Analysis - 2](#)	
	Quiz [UNUSED--Plagiarism Quiz](#)	
	Assignment [UNUSED--Submit Community Service Report Here](#)	
	Discussion Topic [UNUSED--Week 5 Discussion Forum](#)	