IS 350 - Computer, Society & Ethics

General Course Information

Course Format

For the Face to Face version of IS350, much of the work is individual but there is one group assignment. There are weekly class meetings and there are videos you are responsible to view as well as weekly assignments and postings. You will engage in activities face tp face, and on-line, both individually and in a team. All are mandatory. You will be responsible for reading the textbook and online materials, participating in online discussion and activities, and doing all assignments.

For the Distance Learning version of IS350, most of the work will be at an individual pace, although there will be strict deadlines for each assignment. There are videos you are responsible to view as well as weekly assignments and postings. You will engage in other activities on-line, both individually and in a team. All are mandatory. You will be responsible for reading the textbook and online materials, participating in online discussion and activities, and doing all assignments.

1. **Prerequisites**:

As prerequisites, IS 350 requires an introductory course in computing, an introductory course in the social sciences, and HUM 101. This course is an upper-level course designed for juniors and seniors.

2. **Course Goals**:

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

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

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

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

4. 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.

3. **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 **plus** hours a week for this course, including discussion postings, lecture reviews, online activities, reading, studying the materials, homework and team activities.

4. **Lecture & Recitations –**The lecture slides cover the major course content and supplement (not repeat) the textbook. Readings and other online materials further supplement both the lecture slides and the textbook.

5. **Canvas**– Course materials and other information are on Canvas.

6. **Graded Assignments**

1. **Ethical Case Analysis, Assignment 1**– 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 (week 2).

2. **Weekly Discussions** – We will hold substantial discussion of the week's topics online via discussion postings in the forum. This is where we will begin by introducing ourselves, discuss course content or current events related to ethics and technology. For each discussion assignment, you must post one original post and reply to two classmates' posts with substantive posts. Substantive posts add to the discussion. A simple post such as, "I agree" or "I disagree" is not substantive and will not receive credit. Some weeks there will be a specific topic(s) to discuss in the Forum. Other weeks, you will be asked to discuss one or more of the assigned contents for that week. Be sure to read Forum instructions.

3. **Weekly Short Quiz** – To ensure you are prepared and have read the material, there is a quiz most weeks on the upcoming week's readings, including the chapter for the week

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

5. **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. They are:

    1. **Investigate the Current Event Topic assigned to you**

    2. **Create a recording of your Current events topic (presentation)**

6. **Midterm Current Event Report**

7. **Final Current Event Report**

8. **Introduce Yourself** – The first Discussion Forum assignment, due at the end of the first week, is to post a brief introduction to yourself so we may all get to know one another. For each Discussion Forum assignment, unless otherwise specified, you will make an original post and then reply to at least two of your classmates' postings. Original postings and replies must be substantive. They must add to the conversation. For example, a reply of "I agree" is not substantive and will not be awarded any points.

9. **Community Service Internship**(*optional and NOT during the summer*) – NJIT Career Services can provide you the opportunity to work with a Newark-area non-profit organization using your skills to help that organization achieve its goals. This is a great experience, great service, can open doors for you, and looks great on your resume! Once information is available, it will be posted on Canvas.

Deliverable	Percentage
Assignment: Debate (group)	15%

Assignment: Current Events Presentation	15%
Chapter Quizzes	10%
Assignment 1 – Ethical Analysis	10%
Midterm Report	20%
Final Report	20%
Discussion - weekly	10%
TOTAL	***100%***