IS 350 - Computer, Society & Ethics

Class Time: Monday, Thursday (CKB 313) 4:00PM-3:50PM

Location: Live

Instructor Information:

Name: Mark Chiusano

Office: 3901 GITC

Phone Number: 973-642-7106

Email (preferred): chiusano@njit.edu

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM (By Appointment only)

Wednesday: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Friday: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

General Course Information

Course Format

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 for viewing as well as weekly assignments and postings. You will engage in other activities online, 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.

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.

Course Goals

Upon 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 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 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** – 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, discussing 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.** The original post can be graded to a maximum of 3 points while each of the two replies can be graded to a maximum of 2 points for a possible total of 7 points. 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: Ethical Analysis	10%

Midterm Report	20%
Final Report	20%
Discussions - weekly	10%
TOTAL	***100%***

COURSE INFO: Attendance, Absence and Lateness Policy

Attendance, Absence and Lateness Policy

Attendance is required. **Attendance is taken such that you are present for a week ONLY if you have completed ALL assignments**. Each student is permitted **Three** absences during the semester. Additional absences will affect the students' grade by one letter lower.

Any student with more than five (5) absences will receive an automatic grade of "F" for this course.

The following guidelines apply:

If you are absent three (3) times - no effect on your grade.

Four (4) times and your grades are lowered by **one** letter Grade.

Six (6) times you will be given an "**F**".

Medical Excuses need to be reported to the Dean of Students and they, the Dean's Office, will decide if the absence is to be excused or not.

Grading Policy IS350

Grading and other Requirements:

"A" breakers – You must do 2 things to be *eligible* for an A.

1. **Post all assignments <u>on time</u>. <u>Late assignments are NOT accepted.</u>**

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. For online courses, the postings also count as attendance, BUT <u>late postings will NOT be counted towards attendance.</u>**

If you 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.)

<u>**For Online classes: 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.**</u>

<u>**For Face-to-Face classes: Attendance will be taken in Class.**</u>

<u>**You are expected to attend every class**</u>.

Attendance for an Online class 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 students' grade by one letter lower.

Any student with more than five (5) absences will receive an automatic grade of "F" for this course.

The following guidelines apply:

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

Four (4) times and your grades are **<u>lowered</u>** by **<u>one</u>** letter Grade.

Six (6) times and you will be given an "**F**".

<u>Medical Excuses</u> need to be reported to the Dean of Students and they, the Dean's Office, will decide if the absence is valid or not.

Nevertheless, the Instructor is the one who decides whether the absence will be excused.

The percentages for all course work are as follows. These are subject to adjustment.

Deliverables	Due Date	Percentage
Assignment: Debate (group)	All Dates Are Posted on Canvas	15%
Assignment: Current Events		15%
Chapter Quizzes		10%
Assignment 1 – Ethical Analysis		10%
Midterm Report		20%
Final Report		20%
Discussion - weekly		10%
(Community Service Extra Credit)		up to 5 points added to course grade
TOTAL		100%

Grading Policy

- **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**

What if I Don't Agree with my Grade?

If you do not agree with your grade, you have **1 week after the grade has been posted**, to dispute the grade. Follow the grade rebuttal instructions on Canvas.

But What If Canvas or my computer Crashes and I Cannot Submit Homework or Complete my Midterm or Final?

As you know, there is a possibility that this may happen with computer systems, which are beyond our control. We cannot grade coursework that is not successfully submitted. Please Do NOT wait until the last minute to do your homework or take your exam.

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 accepted.

Email address: Email the instructor and copy the TA using the email addresses in the syllabus.

Email subject: Use the email subject header "IS350 [Assignment Number] [Very Brief Reason]"

Email body: 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 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 100, you won't get anything.

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

TEXTBOOK

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

- printed, rental and online versions are available through the NJIT bookstore

Alternative online version through VitalSource).

https://www.vitalsource.com/products/ethics-for-the-information-age-michael-j-quinn-v9780135218006

(If you have a copy of the 7th edition, it may be "mostly good enough", but your weekly quizzes will mostly come from the 8th edition, and it has some new material.)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jan 20, 2025	Calendar Event Labor Day. University Closed	12am
Tue Jan 21, 2025	Calendar Event First Day of Classes	12am
Sun Jan 26, 2025	Discussion Topic Alexis Discussion Forum	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz Chapter 2	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic Week 1 Discussion Forum: Introduce Yourself	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 27, 2025	Calendar Event Last Day for 100% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal	12am
	Calendar Event Last Day to Add/Drop a Class	12am
	Calendar Event W Grades Posted for Course Withdrawals	12am

Date	Details	Due
Tue Jan 28, 2025	Assignment [Academic Engagement: Spring 2025](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 2, 2025	Quiz [Plagiarism](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 2 Discussion Forum: 11-Step Process](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Alexis Discussion Forum](#)	to do: 11:59pm
Mon Feb 3, 2025	Calendar Event [Last Day for 90% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal - No Refund for Partial Withdrawal after this date](#)	12am
Sun Feb 9, 2025	Quiz [Chapter 9](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 3 - Ethical Challenges with the Design and Development of Intelligent Systems Discussion](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 3 Discussion Forum: Bio Fuels - Ethical Analysis](#)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 16, 2025	Quiz [Ethical Analysis Report Assignment (Submit here for Grading)](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz [Chapter 3](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 4 Algorithmic Fairness Discussion](#)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic [Week 4 Discussion Forum: The "Alexis Scenario" Part 2](#)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 17, 2025	Calendar Event [Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal](#)	12am

Date	Details	Due
Sun Feb 23, 2025	Quiz Chapter 5	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic Week 5 Deepfake Video Technology Discussion	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic Week 5 Discussion Forum: Turkle Talk	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 2, 2025	Quiz Chapter 6	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic Week 6 - Privacy and Surveillance Discussion	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic Week 6 Discussion Forum - Electronic Tattoos	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Current Events Presentation (Submit Document and Link here for Grading)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 9, 2025	Discussion Topic Week 7 Discussion Forum - Takai / FBI Abuses	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 10, 2025	Calendar Event Last Day for 25% Refund, Full Withdrawal	12am
Sun Mar 16, 2025	Quiz Midterm Report (Submit here for Grading)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Midterm Report (Submit here for Turnitin)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz Chapter 10	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 30, 2025	Discussion Topic Week 9 - Robots and Work Discussion	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Mar 31, 2025	Calendar Event Last Day to Withdraw from Classes	12am
Sun Apr 6, 2025	Quiz Final Report (Submit here for Grading)	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz Chapter 7	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Final Report (Submit here for Turnitin)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 8, 2025	Calendar Event Thursday Classes Meet	12am
Wed Apr 9, 2025	Calendar Event Friday Classes Meet	12am
Thu Apr 10, 2025	Calendar Event Thanksgiving Recess Begins. No Classes	12am
Sun Apr 13, 2025	Calendar Event Thanksgiving Recess Ends	12am
	Quiz Chapter 1	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic Week 11 Discussion Forum - Cybercrime & Cybersecurity	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 20, 2025	Quiz Chapter 8	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic Week 12 Discussion Forum - History	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 27, 2025	Quiz Chapter 4	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic Week 13 Discussion Forum - Responsibilities	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Apr 30, 2025	Calendar Event Last Day of Classes	12am
Thu May 1, 2025	Calendar Event Reading Day 1	12am
Fri May 2, 2025	Calendar Event Reading Day 2	12am
Sat May 3, 2025	Calendar Event Saturday Classes Meet	12am
Sun May 4, 2025	Calendar Event Final Exams Begin	12am
	Discussion Topic Week 14 - Generative AI Discussion	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Debate Recordings (Submit Recording Link here for Grading)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 7, 2025	Discussion Topic Debate for your classmates to see your team's presentation - submit the link to your recording	due by 11:59pm
Sat May 10, 2025	Calendar Event Final Exams End	12am