

## IS 350 – 005 Computer, Society & Ethics Syllabus Fall 2015

Tuesday, Thursday 4:00 PM – 5:25 PM

Room Tiernan 114

### Course Format

We meet for discussion, lectures and other activities twice a week. You will engage in some other activities on-line and separately with team members. All are mandatory. You will be responsible for attending all classes, reading the textbook and online materials, participating in online discussion and activities, and doing all assignments. You will be responsible for finding out what you missed.

### Instructor

Thomas E. Miller  
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Office Hours: by appointment

### General Course Information

#### 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:

- a. Explain beneficial and detrimental ways in which computing affects people, including the primary and secondary effects, and intended and unintended consequences.
- b. Utilize theories of ethical decision-making and professional codes of ethics to analyze difficult situations with computing aspects.
- c. Find and critically evaluate relevant literature pertaining to a situation of concern.
- d. 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 9 hours a week for this course, including discussion, lecture, other classroom and online activities, reading, studying the materials, homework and team activities.
4. **Lecture & Recitations** – The lecture slides cover the major course content and supplement the textbook. Readings and other online materials further supplement both the lecture slides and the textbook.
5. **Moodle** – Course materials and other information are on Moodle ([moodle.njit.edu](http://moodle.njit.edu)).
6. **Assignments**
  - a. **Library Analysis** – How to use the library and to find good sources.
  - b. **Weekly Online Forum** – We'll hold substantial discussion of the week's topics both in class and online in Moodle.
  - c. **Ethics Case Analysis, Assignment 1** - The only way to truly understand ethics is to apply the theories to real-world situations. Individuals will be responsible for reading and analyzing an ethical case scenario.
  - d. **Debate, Assignment 2** – As part of a team you will persuasively argue about an ethical dilemma concerning technology in a debate format.
  - e. **Judging Quality of Resources, Assignment 3** – This is an individual assignment that focuses on find good research sources on an interesting and timely topic.
7. **Community Service Internship** – 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!

## **Required Textbook, Readings & Materials**

### Textbook (various options)

Michael J. Quinn, Ethics for the Information Age, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2014).

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

Alternative online version through CourseSmart (\$41);

- [coursesmart.com/9780133744088](http://coursesmart.com/9780133744088)

### Readings & Materials

All required journal articles will be linked to in the course Moodle and/ or available through the NJIT digital library.

Note: From time to time I may assign additional readings and other materials.

## Suggestions, Questions, Problems and Falling Behind

If you have any problems or feel like you are falling behind, please contact me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to recognize problems as early as possible, so we can work together to keep you progressing. Feel free to email me or visit during office hours if your comment is more private.

I welcome suggestions and questions. I encourage you to post these in the Moodle "Questions and Interesting Links" forum, so we can all share in the discussion.

## Grading and other Requirements:

1. Post all assignments on time. Late assignments will be penalized.
2. Participate in recitation and online discussions.
3. Attend all sessions, attendance will be taken.

The percentages for all course work are as follows. These are subject to adjustment. Note that the instructor may decide to grade on a curve.

<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Library Analysis	10%
Assignment 1. Ethics Case Analysis	15%
Assignment 2. Debate (group)	15%
Assignment 3: Research Report	10%
Online Discussion	10%
Participation	10%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>100%</i>

## What if I Don't Agree with my Grade?

If you do not agree with your grade, you have 1 week to dispute it after it is posted. Follow the instructions on Moodle.

## But What If Moodle Crashes and I Cannot Submit Homework or Complete my Midterm or Final?

What if...? It's simply too bad. Would your boss accept such an excuse? Do NOT wait till the last minute to do your homework or take your exam.

## **Academic Honesty, Integrity and Cheating**

NJIT and Rutgers students are expected to follow published guidelines on academic honesty and integrity. You must acquaint yourself with these policies before submitting any assignments.

[njit.edu/academics/integrity.php](http://njit.edu/academics/integrity.php)

Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students at both institutions and may result in failure in the course and probation, or failure in the course and expulsion. I pursue Honor Code violations immediately and aggressively.

If you know of a classmate who has cheated, please let me know.

**NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor**

Revised 10/1/2015