

## **IS 350-006 Computer, Society & Ethics**

**TuTh 2:30 – 3:50 PM**

**Room KUPF 202**

### **Syllabus Spring 2016**

#### **Course Format**

We meet for discussion, lectures and other activities twice each 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 classroom discussions and activities, and doing all the assignments. If you must miss a class, email me in advance. You will be responsible for finding out what you missed.

#### **Instructor**

Prof. Thomas Miller  
Office: GITC 5108

E-mail: [miller@njit.edu](mailto:miller@njit.edu)

#### **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/Course work**
  - a. **Weekly Quiz** –To ensure that you have completed the assigned material, there will be an on-line quiz before the first class of the week on the week’s reading. There will be no make ups. If you miss a quiz you will be given a zero. You may take the quiz as many times as you wish and the highest scored will be recorded.
  - b. **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.
  - c. **Debate, Assignment 2** – As part of a team you will persuasively argue about an ethical dilemma concerning technology in a debate format.
  - d. **Dynamic Insight, Assignment 3.** – This is an individual assignment that focuses on an interesting and timely topic showing the impact of technology on society. You will prepare a 500 word paper and present the paper to the class in a 7-10 minute PPT presentation. We will draw straws for presentation dates.
7. **Community Service Internship (optional)** - 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)

(If you have a hard copy of the fifth edition, it may be “mostly good enough”, but your exams will mostly come from the 6<sup>th</sup> edition and it has some new material.)

### 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. Feel free to email me or set up an appointment if your comment is more private.

### **Grading and other Requirements:**

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

<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Assignment 1. Ethics Case Analysis	15%
Assignment 2. Debate (group)	15%
Assignment 3: Dynamic Insight	15%
Attendance & Participation	10%
Quizzes	15%
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 quizzes and 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.