

## IS 350 - Computer, Society & Ethics

### Course Format

For the Distance Learning version of IS350, most of the work will be at an individual pace. There will be scheduled WebEx sessions where we will discuss current topics relevant to the course material and answer any questions regarding the material. You will engage in some other activities on-line and separately with team members. All are mandatory. You will be responsible for reading the textbook and online materials, participating in online discussion and activities, and doing all assignments.

### Instructor

Prof. James Markulic  
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(include "IS350" in the email subject)

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:

- 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.*

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 postings, lecture reviews, online activities, reading, studying the materials, homework and team activities. This is even more compressed during the Summer
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. **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 Discussion** – 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. **Current Events Presentation, Assignment 3** – This is an individual assignment that focuses on an interesting and timely topic showing the impact of technology on society. Each person will present the topic in class over the term.
  - f. **Small Assignments** – Throughout the semester, small assignments will be included to reinforce course material or provoke thoughts on a current topics related to the course material. These assignments will be a combination of short written assignments and participation in discussion groups. Discussion group assignments will be open for a short period (no more than 2 weeks) and you must complete your participation in that time. Late postings will not be accepted since they prevent your comments from being shared with the class.
7. **Community Service Internship** (*optional – NOT During 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! Other community service will be accepted with prior approval from the professor.

## 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](https://www.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.

### Words of Wisdom

*Do not get behind in reading the text and articles! You will regret it!*

## 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:

**“A” breakers** – You must do 3 things to be *eligible* for an A.

1. Post all assignments on time. Late assignments will lose 20% per day .
2. Participate in online discussions.
3. Attend all WebEx sessions or email me ahead of time if you will be late or cannot attend class.
  - a. Attendance will be taken
  - b. If you have three (3) unexcused absences you will lose one Letter Grade
  - c. If you have six (6) unexcused absences you will be given an “F” for the course

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.)

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   | 30%               |
| Assignment 1. Ethics Case Analysis   |                   |
| Assignment 2. Debate (group)   |                   |
| Assignment 3: Current Events   |                   |
| Online Discussion  | 25%               |
| WebEx Participation, Weekly Lecture Questions and Viewing of Recorded Lectures | 5%                |
| Short Assignments  | 15%               |
| Midterm  | 10%               |
| 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.