

# CS350 – Ethical Issues in Computing

## Syllabus – Spring 2013

**INSTRUCTOR:** Tom Naps

**OFFICE:** Halsey 229, phone 424-1388

**EMAIL:** naps@uwosh.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** TuTh 9:00 - noon

**REFERENCES AND RESOURCES:** • *Ethics in a Computing Culture*, by Bo Brinkman and Alton Sanders

- Material, forums, and other activities at the course Moodle <http://csf11.acs.uwosh.edu/moodle>. The first time you login to this page for this course, use the enrollment key *techethics* to enroll in this course.
- Additional readings and documents will be made available. Others will be distributed by downloading from the appropriate link on the course Moodle site and via the Polk Library's eReserve system.

## Topics and Schedule for Projects

1. Jan 31 – Introduction
2. Feb 7 – Underpinnings of ethical decision-making – Chapter 1
3. Feb 14 – Professionalism – Chapter 2
4. Feb 21
  - Privacy – Chapter 3
  - Personal Identity and Sense of Self in Cyberspace – Chapter 6
5. Feb 28
  - Security and Reliability in Computing – Chapter 5
  - Autonomous Technology – Chapter 9
6. Tuesday, March 5 – we will meet on Tuesday since I will be traveling on university-related work on Thursday. If you are in the Tuesday lab for Physics 311, you need to let me know at our first class meeting, and Professor Rioux will probably be able to let you switch to the Thursday lab that week.
  - Impact project due
  - Regulation of commerce and speech in cyberspace – Chapter 7
  - Vulnerable groups in cyberspace – Chapter 8
7. March 14
  - Intellectual Property – Chapter 4
8. March 28
  - Open Source
9. April 4 – Presentation of “early” scenario project
10. April 11
  - Presentation of “early” scenario projects
  - “Early” public awareness projects due
11. April 18 – Presentation of “early” scenario projects
12. April 25 – Presentation of “late” scenario projects
13. May 2 – Presentation of “late” scenario projects
14. May 9 – Presentation of “late” scenario projects, “late” public awareness projects

## Course Grading Policies

Your grade for the course will be based on the following weighted factors:

Class participation and discussion	<p>You are expected to arrive on-time and prepared to ALL the course sessions. “Prepared” means that you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Done the assigned reading on the topic</li><li>• Participated in the online writing activity related to that reading before the assigned deadline for the activity</li><li>• Are willing and able to participate fully in the classroom discussions and activities related to that topic.</li></ul> <p>Being unprepared in any of these three regards for the class session means that you will receive zero credit for that class session. However, also realize that your preparation on all three counts is essentially a matter of your doing the activity in a conscientious and constructive way. For example, in the online writing activities, you will not be downgraded for relatively small grammatical errors in your writing – unlike the fashion in which your formal writing assignments will be graded. However you will be downgraded for “rants” in these online writing activities that make it apparent you have not done the assigned reading. Similarly, in the classroom discussions, you will not be downgraded for anything you say as long as it is done in a respectful and courteous way.</p>	40%
“Impact” writing assignment	A well-crafted essay (minimum 2000 words) based on your description of a career choice in computing that will enable you to “make a difference”. Details and evaluation criteria will be discussed during the first two class sessions and posted on the course Moodle.	20%
“Public awareness” writing assignment	A well-crafted essay (minimum 2000 words) based on your identification of a computing issue on which the public at large is confused and misinformed. Details and evaluation criteria will be discussed during the first two class sessions and posted on the course Moodle.	20%
“Scenario” writing assignment and in-class presentation	A well-crafted essay (minimum 2000 words) based on your developing a real or imagined ethical scenario related to the field of computing, describing the options you have in the face of that situation, and defending the choice you make. Your essay will be posted before the class in which it is due. In that class you will present your scenario and respond to the questions/discussion that it generates. Details and evaluation criteria will be discussed during the first two class sessions and posted on the course Moodle.	20%

### Can I get an extension on work that is due on a specified date?

Only if you’re ill enough to provide a signed note from the attending physician or have other reasons serious enough that the Dean of Students Office is willing to provide a written note justifying the extension.