

**University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Computer Science Department**

**CS 350: Ethical Issues in Computing
Spring 2009**

----- Course Syllabus -----

COURSE SCHEDULE

		Days	Time	Location
Section 001	Lecture	F	1:20-2:50pm*	HS 212
(1 credit)	Discussion	W	9:00-10:00pm	Asynch Online

**Class meets for 7 weeks from Fri Feb 6 through Fri Mar 13*

INSTRUCTOR Dr. Kathy (Kate) S. Faggiani
Computer Science Department
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IN-PERSON OFFICE HOURS*(HS 218): M 11:25am-1:45pm
TTH 12:00-1:20pm

Or use Google CHAT: faggianik@gmail.com whenever I'm online.

*Also available other times by appointment

PREREQ Junior standing and departmental permission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the evolution of computing, its implications for society, and the ethical issues underlying those implications. This course will focus on reading the current literature regarding these issues and on presenting the pros and cons of such issues in both oral and written fashion. The course is required for all Computer Science majors in the Computer Science Emphasis and is strongly recommended for all Computer Science majors. (Source: http://www.uwosh.edu/computer_science/cs-major/courses/course-descriptions retrieved 01/24/2009.)

COURSE OVERVIEW

The "ethical issues in computing" course consists of a broad range of topics that will be covered in a seminar format. Seminar courses include students in the active development and delivery of class sessions. Several topics will be selected by the instructor, and the class sessions for these topics will be directed by the instructor. Other topics will be selected by consensus among course participants from a list of potential topics provided during the first week of the semester. Those topics selected by participant consensus will include class sessions that are conducted by a team of two students. Students will have the first 2-3 weeks of the semester to select topics, identify appropriate readings, and develop class session activities. The overarching thread that will be addressed in all topics is professional ethics in computer science.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK Baase, Sara. (2008). A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing and the Internet. Third edition. ISBN: 978-0-13-600848-4 or eTextbook available online at: <http://www.coursesmart.com>

OTHER READINGS Additional readings will be provided in PDF format for download from the D2L course site, via hypertext links to an internet source, or in hard copy handouts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

Learning outcomes represent the knowledge, skills and abilities, and attitudes/behaviors you will acquire as a result of successful participation in this course. The learning objectives for Ethical Issues in Computing are listed below. Please note that each learner's progress will be assessed at regular intervals using a variety of different assessment tools and techniques.

Table 1. CS 350 Learning Outcomes and Assessment

Course Outcome	Assessment Activity
1. Identify and analyze social, legal, and ethical issues in computing.	Online/In-class discussion Selection of readings Direction of class session
2. Understand and interpret a professional code of ethics relevant to the computing profession.	Online/In-class discussion
3. Interpret the activities and choices of others within an ethical framework.	Online/In-class discussion Direction of class session
4. When confronted with an ethical situation, determine appropriate action based on standards of professional ethics.	Online/In-class discussion Direction of class session

The learning outcomes described in Table 1 relate directly to the Computer Science Program Objectives found at: http://www.uwosh.edu/computer_science/cs-major/program-objectives

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

Reading, thinking, writing, discussing, planning, preparing, and facilitating are the primary learning activities in which a student will engage in this course. Artifacts that result from these activities will be evaluated for evidence of student learning. Assignment of grades will be based on individual effort expended in the learning process, quality of learning artifacts produced, quality of participation in online/class discussions, selection of content for inclusion in participant-prepared class sessions, conduct of class sessions by participants, and quality of participation in participant-led sessions. Do

note that the use of the word “quality” is directly tied to the thought processes practiced and demonstrated by the individual student. The rubric used as a heuristic to assign grades in this course is described below:

A student who earns an A in this course:

- Attends all scheduled class sessions
- Completes all assignments by the stated due date/time
- Prepares for class by reading and carefully considering the content
- Participates in online discussions by posting clear, concise, well-thought-out responses
- Carefully considers and comments on the posts of others in online discussions
- Selects an important social, legal, or ethical issue directly related to computing or the computing profession for the seminar
- Identifies supplemental reading assignments for the class that are directly related and meaningful to the selected topic
- Plans and conducts a class session that directly addresses the selected topic, always keeping the focus on professional ethics/practice in view
- Encourages preparation and participation of all class members in the directed class session
- Consistently contributes thought-provoking comments and analysis to the class either through online discussion and in the class session

A student who earns a B in this course:

- Attends most class sessions
- Completes most assignments by the due date/time
- Prepares for class by reading the assigned content
- Participates in online discussion, and posts demonstrate knowledge of assigned reading
- Adds general comments to posts of others that demonstrate some knowledge of assigned reading
- Selects a general social, legal, or ethical issue that is generally related to computing or the computing profession for the seminar
- Identifies supplemental readings that are generally related to the selected topic
- Plans and conducts a class session that somewhat addresses the selected topic
- Provides preparation instructions for directed class session and promotes some participation by class members
- Contributes comments and analysis to the class through online discussion and in-class participation

A student who earns a C in this course:

- Attends some of the class sessions
- Completes some of the assignments by the due date/time
- Prepares for class by skimming the assigned reading/content
- Occasionally participates in online discussions, and/or posts are general and provide no indication of comprehension or synthesis of assigned readings

- Infrequently responds to posts of others, and/or responses are general or vague and have no connection to assigned content
- Selected topic is marginally related to social, ethical, or legal issues in computing or the computing profession
- No supplemental readings identified, or supplemental readings selected have marginal value to overall topic
- Little evidence of planning or preparation for conduct of class session and/or session does not directly address selected topic
- Makes little effort to engage class or encourage participation
- Offers few substantive contributions to online discussion or class activities

Students not “fitting” into one of the above three grade categories (or “crossing” categories, i.e. AB or BC) will receive an F in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

This calendar provides a summary overview of the course content to be covered during the 7 week session. For details on reading and assignments, see the Content section of the D2L course site.

Dates	Topics
Week 1: Feb 2-6	Course Introduction Overview of Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues in Computing
Week 2: Feb 9-13	Professional Ethics and Responsibilities Baase, Chapter 9 and Appendix A Supplemental: IBM and the Holocaust
Week 3: Feb 16-20	Errors, Failures, and Risks Baase, Chapter 8 Supplemental: Case of the Killer Robot
Week 4: Feb 23-27	TBA – Consensus Choice
Week 5: Mar 2-6	TBA – Consensus Choice
Week 6: Mar 9-13	TBA – Consensus Choice
Week 7: Mar 16-20	TBA – Consensus Choice