

# CS 350 – Ethical Issues in Computing

## Spring 2016

**Instructor:**

Scott Summers

**Office:** Halsey 220

**Email:**

[summerss@uwosh.edu](mailto:summerss@uwosh.edu)

**Phone:** 920-424-1324

**Office hours:**

MWF 10:20 AM – 11:20 AM

T 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, 12:40 PM – 1:40 PM

**Lectures:**

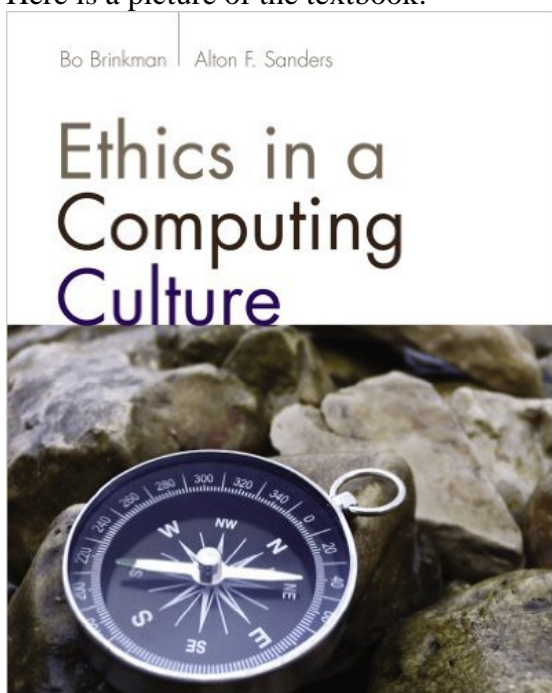
T 11:30 AM – 12:30 AM, N. Halsey 456.

**Prerequisites:** Junior standing and completion of Computer Science 262 with a grade of C or better. (Spring)

**Course website:** Materials, forums and other activities at the course website: <http://www.uwosh.edu/d2l>. You should check d2l on a regular basis.

**Required textbook:** Ethics in a Computing Culture, by Bo Brinkman and Alton Sanders. Additional readings and documents will be made available on d2l.

Here is a picture of the textbook:



**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.

**Course grade:** Your final course grade will be based on the following components:

50%	<p><b>Class participation and discussion:</b> 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>
20%	<p><b>Midterm exam:</b> There will be one midterm exam that covers all the readings and discussions. It will be multiple-choice, true-false, matching.</p>
10%	<p><b>Quizzes:</b> There will be six quizzes that cover the weekly readings and discussions. The quizzes will be multiple-choice, true-false, matching and perhaps short-answer.</p>
20%	<p><b>“Scenario” writing assignment and in-class presentation:</b> A well-crafted essay (minimum 1500 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 made public at least one week before your presentation. 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 website.</p>

**Late work policy:** Late work will NOT be accepted. Late work is worth 0 points. Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the instructor if you provide a valid justification (in the form of a written excuse from a medical doctor or the Dean of Students Office) before the due date.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. All assignments are to be completed individually. While discussion of ideas with fellow students is encouraged, all work that you turn in must be done individually. Any suspected academic dishonesty will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Any clarification of what does or does not constitute academic dishonesty must take place *before* you turn in questionable work. For clarification on what constitutes academic dishonesty, contact me or consult the printed policy in the [UWO Student Discipline Code](#), Chapter UWS 14.

## Topics and tentative schedule:

Week	Class days	Topics	Notes
1	2/2	Introduction	
2	2/9	Underpinnings of ethical decision-making – Chapter 1	<b>Quiz 1 (ch1)</b>
3	2/16	Professionalism – Chapter 2	<b>Quiz 2 (ch2)</b>
4	2/23	Security and reliability in computing – Chapter 5	<b>Quiz 3 (ch5)</b>
5	3/1	Privacy – Chapter 3	<b>Quiz 4 (ch3)</b>
6	3/8	Regulation of commerce and speech in cyberspace – Chapter 7	<b>Quiz 5 (ch7)</b>
7	3/15	Intellectual property – Chapter 4	<b>Quiz 6 (ch 4)</b>
<b>SPRING BREAK (3/20 – 3/25)</b>			
8	3/29	Midterm exam	Will cover all discussions and readings. <b>Scenario essay DUE before class starts.</b>
9	4/5	Presentation of scenario projects	
10	4/12	Presentation of scenario projects	
11	4/19	Presentation of scenario projects	
12	4/26	Presentation of scenario projects	
13	5/3	Presentation of scenario projects	
14	5/10	Presentation of scenario projects	

## Course Outcomes:

1. Identify and analyze social, legal, and ethical issues in computing.
2. Understand and interpret a professional code of ethics relevant to the computing profession.
3. Interpret the activities and choices of others within an ethical framework.
4. When confronted with an ethical situation, determine appropriate action based on standards of professional ethics.