

CS 391 – Social & Ethical Issues in Computing

Catalog Description: In-depth exploration of the social, psychological, political, and ethical issues surrounding the computer industry and the evolving information society. (Baccalaureate Core Course)

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: CS 101, computer literacy

Courses that require this as a prerequisite: None

Structure: Three 50-minute lectures per week

Instructors: Linda O'Hara

Course Content:

- Privacy
- Wiretapping and encryption
- Computer risks
- Intellectual property
- Constitution and civil liberties
- Computer crime
- Computers at work and school
- Professional ethics

Learning Resources:

- *Ethics for the Information Age* 3rd edition, by Michael J. Quinn

Course Learning Outcomes: (* indicates quantitative outcome—see Criterion 4)

At the completion of the course, students will be able to...

1. **Analyze** relationships among science, technology, and society using critical perspectives or examples from historical, political, or economic disciplines. (E, G)
2. **Analyze** the role of science and technology in shaping diverse fields of study over time. (E, G, H)
3. **Analyze** a moral problem related to information technology from the point of view of a consequentialist ethical theory.* (ABET Outcomes: E, F, G)
4. **Analyze** a moral problem related to information technology from the point of view of a nonconsequentialist ethical theory.* (ABET Outcomes: E, F, G)
5. **Explain** the roles and responsibilities of a computer professional. (Level 2; ABET Outcomes: E, G, H)
6. **Articulate** in writing a critical perspective on issues involving science, technology, and society using evidence as support. (ABET Outcomes: E, F, G)

Students with Disabilities:

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct, i.e., cheating policies
<http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm>