

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 **Terms Offered:** Fall, Winter, Spring

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

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. **Explain** the social impact of some current information technologies (Level 2; ABET Outcomes: E, F, G, h, m)
2. **Infer** the benefits and risks of proposed information technologies (Level 4; ABET Outcomes: E, F, G, h, m)
3. **Analyze** a moral problem related to information technology from the point of view of a consequentialist ethical theory (Level 4; ABET Outcomes: E, G, m)
4. **Analyze** a moral problem related to information technology from the point of view of a non-consequentialist ethical theory (Level 4; ABET Outcomes: E, G, m)
5. **Explain** the roles and responsibilities of a computer professional (Level 2; ABET Outcomes: E, F, G, H, I, m)

Learning Resources:

- *A Gift of Fire*, by Sara Baase (required)
- Educause (www.educause.edu)
- EPIC (www.epic.org)
- CDT (www.cdt.org)

Students with Disabilities:

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD 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 SSD should contact SSD immediately at 737-4098.

Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct:

<http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm>

Revised: 8/15/07