CS305 Social, Ethical, and Legal Implications of Computing

Spring 2010
Prof. Harry Porter
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Class webpage:
www.cs.pdx.edu/~harry/ethics
Slide Credits

These slides were created by
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Catalog Description

- History of computing
- Social context of computing
- Professional and ethical responsibilities
- Risks and liabilities of safety-critical systems
- Intellectual property
- Privacy and civil liberties
- Social implications of the Internet
- Computer crime
- Economic issues in computing
Course Goals

Upon the successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify the ethical issues that relate to computer science in real situations.
- Decide whether a given action is ethical as regards computer science professional ethics, and justify that decision.
- Recognize situations in which there may be legal issues as regards computer science and related topics such as intellectual property, and know some legal principles to apply.
Course Goals (cont.)

- Prepare and deliver a short professional-quality talk on a topic relating to ethical, legal, and social implications of computer science.
- Research and write a professional-quality paper about a topic relating to social, legal, and ethical implications of computer science.
- State several important impacts of computer science and related fields on society.
- State several examples of important ethical principles as they apply to computer science related situations.
Prerequisites

- A course in computer science at the 300 or higher level.
- Sophomore inquiry (or a course in public speaking and a course in writing a research paper).
Textbook


Another Reference (not reqd):
Course Organization

Class Format:
- Lectures
- Discussions
- Student presentations

Assignments:
- Weekly homeworks (about five)
- Oral presentation
- Research paper
Homework

- Assigned weekly
- Bring hardcopy to class
- Due at before lecture starts!!!
- Involves mostly research on the Internet
- Provides materials for class discussions
- Staple pages!!! Include your name!!!
Class Discussions

- A block of time in each class is devoted to discussions
- Everyone is required to participate
- Learn to argue real cases based on legal or ethical principles
Oral Presentation

- Every student is required to give one 10 minute oral presentation to the class.
- Every student is required to submit a draft version of the slides (in PowerPoint or equivalent format) before the speech.
- Any of the course topics can be used as the base for the presentation.
- Detailed requirements and schedule will be available later.
Research Paper

- Every student is required to choose an issue related to one of the course topics and analyze it in a written paper.
- The paper must be 1800-2200 words in length. It must include a “My Opinion” section.
- A draft version of the paper needs to be submitted first.
- A student may choose the same topic for both paper and oral presentation.
Final Exam

- Take-home format, one or two days
- Similar to homework assignments
Grading

- Homework 15%
- Class participation 15%
- Paper 25%
  - Draft 5%, paper 20%
- Presentation 25%
  - Draft 5%, presentation 20%
- Final exam 15%
- Attendance 5%
Tentative Schedule

- **Week 1**: Syllabus & History of Computing
- **Week 2**: Ethical Theories
- **Week 3**: Intellectual Property
- **Week 4**: Privacy and Civil Liberties
- **Week 5**: Computer and Network Security
- **Week 6**: Computer Reliability
- **Week 7**: Professional Ethics; Impacts on Society
- **Weeks 8-10**: Student Presentations
Instructor Information

- Prof. Harry Porter
- Office: FAB 115-06
- Office Hours: Mon, Wed, 3-4PM
- Email: harry@cs.pdx.edu
Location of Prof. Harry Porter’s Office

Fourth Avenue Building, Room 115-06

C.S. Office

Cubicle Area

After 5 PM call: 503-725-4039 (or dial 5-4039 on the wall phone)

From Lobby
Misc Info

- Class webpage = syllabus
  www.cs.pdx.edu/~harry/ethics

- Mailing List
  - Mailman: "PorterClassList"
    - You must subscribe, details on webpage

- Attendance is required
First Assignment

- Read chapters 1 and 2
  - We’ll read entire textbook
- Homework #1 – due next Wednesday