Ethics in Computer Science
CSC 411 001
Spring, 2016

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Office Hours

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>10:00 - 11:00</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10:45 – 11:30</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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Other times by appointment.

Class meeting time and place

3:30 am-4:45 pm every Tuesday and pre-announced Thursdays
McKibben Education Building
Room ED322

Course Description

Study of ethical concepts to guide computing professionals. Implications and effects of computers on society. Responsibilities of computing professionals in directing emerging technology.

Prerequisites

18 hours of computer science with at least six hours advanced.

Program Learning Outcomes

Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at http://cs.sfasu.edu/cs/plo/
Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe and distinguish between the various ethical theories which can be used to form the basis of solutions to moral dilemmas in computing.
2. Identify and define the components of a structured plan for solving ethical problems and, in the process, will be able to understand the basis for her/his own ethical system.
3. Indicate which of a variety of ethical problems may be unique to computing and what makes each unique.
4. Prepare case studies dealing with moral dilemmas related to computing, including appropriate components of the plan described in objective 2 above.
5. Compare and contrast several examples of professional codes of ethics related to computing, discussing their commonalities, differences, and implications.
6. Demonstrate research skills using the library and the Internet.
7. Effectively express ideas through written communication.
8. Demonstrate oral communication abilities by presenting oral reports and case studies.

Required Materials

No textbook required.

Course Requirements

Examinations: (50% of the course grade)

Mid-term, and final. All examinations may be comprehensive. NOTE: There are NO exemptions from the final examination.

Assignments: (5% of the course grade)

There will be occasional homework assignments and unannounced quizzes related to lecture topics.

Project: (45% of the course grade)

A term project will be required. It is composed of both oral and written components. Both components must be successfully completed in order to earn a grade of "B" or better in the course. Details will be given in class.

Course Calendar/Timeline

Lecture ................................................................. 11 hours
Introduction to ethics
Social and ethical issues affecting computing
Case studies

Projects ............................................................... 0 hours
Projects are assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Project work will be accomplished outside of student's scheduled classroom hours. One term project for each student. Approximately 10 weeks to complete. Project requires research, a formal paper of eight to twelve pages and a formal presentation lasting ten to fifteen minutes. Topics are drawn from social and ethical issues.

Presentations .............................................. 2 hours
Oral presentation of projects and case studies
Exams .................................................. 1-2 hours

Class Information and Policies

Attendance & Class Behavior:

Seating assignments will be made and roll will be taken regularly. Attendance will be used in calculating your final grade. If you come to class, you are expected to be present the entire class period unless you have been given permission to leave early. If you are absent from class please do not come by my office and ask me to repeat the class lecture. There will be no smoking, no chewing of tobacco, no eating or drinking, and no bare feet. Please keep your feet off of the seat backs. No disruptive behavior including offensive language will be tolerated in a computer science facility or related activity. Such behavior may result in administrative removal from class. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off for the duration of the class. Only students officially registered for the course and approved assistants may attend class.

Examination Policy:

All class examinations are considered to be a major part of the course work upon which a large part of the course grade depends. There are NO make-up exams! Class examinations will be announced at least two classes prior to the examination. If you have a conflict with another university event, you must contact me well in advance of the examination. In case of an extreme emergency, contact me before the scheduled examination. Failure to do so will result in an examination grade of zero. A grade of zero will be assigned for any missed unannounced quizzes.

Assignment Policy:

All assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class (or by an announced time) on the specified due date. That means, any assignment given to me after I have collected the assignments from the class is considered to be late. As much as 100% of the total credit may be deducted from assignments that are handed in late. Under NO circumstances will any assignment be accepted for credit after the collected class assignments have been graded. PLEASE NOTE: You may be given assignments during the last five class days of the semester.

University Drop Policy:

The official university add/drop policy is located at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-add-drop.pdf If you have questions concerning registration, add/drop or the withdraw process, contact the Registrar at (936) 468-2501 or E-mail: REGISTRAR@SFASU.EDU The Registrar
is located on the 2nd floor of the Rusk building.

**Computer Account Policy:**

All assignments that require the use of the University Computer must be done using the computer account that is assigned to you in this class. You should NOT do other class assignments in this account, and you should NOT do assignments from this class in other accounts. Failure to abide by the above statements will mean that you will receive a grade of F in this course.

**Software Policy:**

Disciplinary action will be taken against individuals who perform unauthorized duplication of computer software or who are involved in the unauthorized use of duplicated software. This action may make it impossible for you to successfully complete this course.

**Cheating Policy:**

If in my judgment a student is found cheating on an examination, a grade of zero will be assigned as the examination grade and a minimum of one (1) letter grade will be lost in the course grade. A course grade of F may be assigned depending on the situation. All other class assignments are to be done INDEPENDENTLY. If in my judgment two or more people hand in assignments that I judge to be the same, the point value for that homework assignment will be deducted from the homework grade of all involved students and a minimum of one letter grade may be lost in the course grade. A recurrence of this by any individual will result in a grade of F in the course. Students should save all developmental copies of their programs/assignments so that individual program/assignment development can be verified to me if I think it is necessary. DO YOUR OWN WORK!!!!! Do NOT show other students your code!!!!

**Computing Laboratory Usage:**

Students who utilize equipment in university computing laboratories are expected to read and abide by all posted policies for the laboratories. Please note that no children and no pets are permitted in university computing laboratories.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at [http://cs.sfasu.edu/cs/plo/](http://cs.sfasu.edu/cs/plo/).

**General Student Policies:**

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and
plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-integrity.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-integrity.pdf)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

[http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf)

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Acceptable Student Behavior**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

[http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf)