

Course Syllabus

Course Information

CS 3385/001: Ethics, Law, Society, and Computing (22214)

Spring, 2013

Class Meeting Time: Tu. and Thur. 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Class Location: ECSN 2.112

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Dachang Cong

Office Location: HH 2.302

Office Hours: Tu. and Thur. 1 - 2:30 PM; Wed. 4:00 – 5:00 PM

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies

The University of Texas at Dallas

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972-883-2297

And by Appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

There are no pre-requisites.

Reading, critical thinking, and writing skills are essential.

Every student should have a college writing guide.

Course Description

This course studies broader topics on computer ethics, business law, and the challenges and implications of computer technology. As information revolution is reshaping economy and social life, organizations (governments, corporations, and NGOs) and individuals are coming to grips with a wide array of ethical dilemmas, legal/political complexities, and management challenges. They also need to explore new opportunities offered by computing technology, such as animation and high-tech medicine. In the global high-tech world, the protection of intellectual property, especially software, is crucial. And professional ethics must be emphasized more rigorously when job market is fluid and computer technology is omnipresent. Other topics include career development, censorship, computer crimes, wiretapping, encryption, privacy, and network reliability and safety. The course also examines risks from failures and malfunction of computer systems. The instructor encourages students to find solutions (technical, market-based, regulatory, or social) to cope with computer-related challenges. In addition, the course probes the impacts of artificial intelligence, biocomputing, and nanotechnology. The instructor encourages innovation and originality.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able:

1. To gain a thorough understanding of the impacts of computing on economy, ethics, law, and society from an interdisciplinary perspective.
2. To identify and describe major challenges, dilemmas, and conundrums in the fields of computer ethics and business law.
3. To develop critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills for the new realities in the global digital revolution.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Baase, Sara. A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing and the Internet (third edition).

Suggested Course Materials

The instructor will suggest a number of web sites, TV programs, and movies.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

I	Orientation and Introduction	Jan. 15-17
II	Introduction to the Computer Revolution and the Digital Economy The Rise and Half-Fall of Silicon Valley	Jan. 22 and 24
III	Benefits of Computers	Jan. 29 and 31
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 2-43.	
IV	Privacy and Information	Feb. 5 and 7
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 44-118.	
V	Wiretapping and Encryption	Feb. 12 and 14
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 118-142.	
VI	Freedom of Speech I	Feb. 19 and 21
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 143-169.	
VII	Freedom of Speech II	Feb. 26 and 28
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 170 - 196.	

***Midterm exam to be scheduled.**

VIII	Software Protection and IP	Mar. 5 and 7
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 197 - 251.	
IX	Computer Crimes I	Mar. 19 and 21
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 252 - 275.	
X	Computer Crimes II	Mar. 26 and 28
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 276 - 306.	
XI	Computer and Workplace I Career Development	Apr. 2 and 4
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 307 - 327.	
XII	Computer and Workplace II	Apr. 9 and 11
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 327- 349.	
XIII	Ethical Decision Making Harnessing Technology with Humanistic Values Economic Disparities Social Responsibility	Apr. 16 and 18
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 350 – 403.	
XIV	Managing Risks Organizational Culture The Impacts of AI, Biocomputing, and Nanotechnology	Apr. 23 and 25
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 404 – 453.	
XV	The Future of Computer Technology Professional Ethics and Responsibilities Conclusion	Apr. 30 and May 2
	Baase, <u>A Gift of Fire</u> , pp. 454 – 502.	
XVI	Study Report Due	May 7

Grading Policy

Each student is required to write a study report. He or she is also required to complete a midterm exam.

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| 1) Study Report | 60% of final grade |
| 2) Midterm Exam | 20% of final grade |
| 3) Class participation | 20% of final grade |

Poor attendance and late work will cause a reduction in the final grade. The instructor will make a decision on the reduction according to the degree/nature of poor attendance and belatedness.

Course & Instructor Policies

Electronic gadgets should not be used in classroom as they may distract attention and disrupt learning. Class attendance is essential. Late work will impact on the grade negatively.

**For UTD rules and regulations, please visit
<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>**

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.
