

The University of Memphis
Department of Computer Science
COMP 7/8900: Cyber Ethics
Instructor: Max Garzon

Objectives

The course aims to describe frameworks and methodologies for discussion and resolution of ethical problems about cyberspace. Specific legal and ethical cases will be discussed to highlight issues with high impact on human societies arising from the use of computer and cyber technology.

Course Description

7/8900. Cyber Ethics. (3).

Topics include issues, concepts and frameworks for analyses of ethical issues and resolutions; ethical issues arising from computer use and cyberspace: privacy, intellectual property, malware, professional ethics, cyberbullying, ethics of work and wealth, the digital divide. Case studies.

PREREQUISITES: At least 9 hours of graduate credit, or permission of instructor.

Syllabus

Week 1	Introduction: Ethics and cyber ethics
Week 2-3	Theories of Ethics throughout history
Week 4-5	Definitions of Cyber Ethics
Week 6	Information Privacy Issues and Solutions
Week 7	Intellectual Property (IP)
Week 8-9	Hacking and Malware
Week 10	Software Reliability
Week 11	Professional Ethics, whistle blowing
Week 12	Ethics of work and wealth, cyberbullying
Week 13	The Digital Divide
Week 14	Case Studies/Term Project Presentations

Textbooks

Ethics for the Information Age. M.J. Quinn. Pearsons Publishing, 2017.

Alternate

Readings in CyberEthics: A systematic Introduction, R.A. Spinello, H.T. Tavani. Jones and Bartlett, 2004.

Evaluation

Three best homeworks (30%), Term Project Reports (40%) and Progress Reports (20%), Class Participation (10%). Students taking the class at the 8000 level are expected to engage in more encompassing projects, as well as to turn in solutions of a higher quality. Letter grades will be assigned on total scores as **+A-** ≥ 85% ≥ **+B-** ≥ 73% ≥ **+C-** ≥ 60% ≥ **D** ≥ 54% ≥ **F**. Plus/minus grading will be used based on significant performance differences on the project within each range.

Plagiarism (cheating behavior) in any form is unethical and detrimental to proper education and will not be tolerated. All work submitted by you the student (projects, programming assignments, lab assignments, quizzes, tests, etc.) is expected to be a

student's own work. Plagiarism is incurred when any part of anybody else's work is passed as your own (no proper credit is listed to the sources in your own work) *including use of any generative AI like chatGPT in doing any assignments* so the reader is led to believe it is therefore your own effort. Students are allowed and encouraged to discuss with each other and look up resources in the literature (including the internet) on their assignments, but appropriate references must be included for the materials consulted, and appropriate citations made when the material is taken verbatim. By taking this course, you agree that any assignment turned in may undergo a review process and that the assignment may be included as a source document in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Any assignment not submitted according to the procedures given by the instructor may be penalized or may not be accepted at all.

If plagiarism or cheating occurs, the student will receive a failing grade on the assignment and (at the instructor's discretion) a failing grade in the course. The course instructor may also decide to forward the incident to the University Judicial Affairs Office for further disciplinary action. For further information on U of M code of student conduct and academic discipline procedures, please refer to <https://www.memphis.edu/osa/students/academic-misconduct.php>