CSCI 315E Computers, Ethics and Society
Spring 2021

Class meets:  MWF 4 – 5 p.m.
Zoom https://umontana.zoom.us/j/96230180316

Professor:  Dr. Melissa Holmes
email:  melissa.holmes@umontana.edu
office hours:  updated as needed, and posted on Moodle.
text messages:  406.565.6079

Course Description:
Society and technology have influenced one another since the dawn of mankind. Each technological advance, ranging from stone tools to a global network of traveling bits and bytes, has changed behaviors of individuals and ways of life in civilizations. This course examines contemporary topics such privacy, ethics, computer crime, social media, freedom of speech, intellectual property, technology work, technology risks and failures. The course introduces students to the professional code of ethics used by computer scientists, legal issues involved in technology, and the social implications of computers, computing, and other digital technologies.

Students will study the textbook, relate the chapter content to current news and events, and critically examine issues, compile information from a variety of sources, and communicate their findings via high-quality research papers. During the course of the semester, students will participate in Zoom discussions, produce written reports, work in small groups to edit, and conduct a research study.

Grading:
Short papers  40%
Group Editing Participation  20%
Human Subjects Training  10%
Final Research Project/Paper  30%

Textbook:
This text is out of print. You can find very inexpensive copies online, and the chapter slides are posted on Moodle.

Accommodations:
Students who need any type of accommodation should work with Student Disability Services and provide appropriate documentation as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty:
You are encouraged to work in teams and use many resources including books and the Internet. However, each student must turn in his/her own work, and each student is responsible for understanding anything that is turned in. Refer to the Student Conduct Code for more information regarding plagiarism and cheating.
Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to...

1. Communicate effectively in groups, with a range of audiences, and using a variety of media;
2. Critically analyze technology-related ethical issues from multiple perspectives and articulate your analysis;
3. Analyze and articulate the local and global impact of computing on individuals, organizations, and society;
4. Participate in class discussions (during class and online) in a respectful, professional and ethical manner;
5. Compose essays that demonstrate critical thinking, command of standard grammar, and logical organization;
6. Demonstrate critical, analytical, and creative problem solving skills;
7. Analyze texts and other materials critically and creatively; and
8. Identify and interpret the codes of professional conduct relating to the disciplines of computer science and software engineering.

Writing Requirements:

A short paper will be due each week for Weeks 1 – 10. Topics for the following week will be posted on Friday. Students should work in small groups on workshopping and editing activities throughout the week. At the end of the week, each student should post the final version of his/her paper on a public discussion forum, where they will be discussed respectfully by classmates.

Each week, you will be required to:

1. Write a 300-500 word paper on one of the topics/questions suggested by the instructor
2. Edit your group members’ papers. Each student will edit 3 - 4 papers per week.
3. Provide feedback to at least two of your classmates’ papers posted on the public discussion forum.

Research Study:

Each student will design a survey research study related to the class. You will complete UM’s Human Subjects Training requirements, design and deploy a survey, and write a 5-chapter research paper to articulate your results. This will be your final paper.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics / Activities</th>
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| 1 Jan. 11-15 | Syllabus and course overview  
For Wednesday: Locate a current news article that illustrates one of the issues covered this class  
Wednesday workshop practice  
Baase, Chapter 1: Unwrapping the Gift |
| 2 Jan. 18-22 | No class Monday  
Baase Chapter 2: Privacy |
| 3 Jan. 25-29 | Baase Chapter 2 - Privacy |
| 4 Feb 1 - 5 | Baase Chapter 3 – Freedom of Speech |
| 5 Feb. 8 - 12 | Baase Chapter 3 – Freedom of Speech |
| 6 Feb. 15-19 | No class Monday  
Baase Chapter 4 – Intellectual Property |
| 7 Feb. 22-26 | Baase Chapter 5 – Crime |
| 8 Mar. 1 - 5 | Baase Chapter 6 - Work |
| 9 Mar 8 - 12 | Baase Chapter 7 – Evaluating Information |
| 10 Mar. 15 - 19 | Baase Chapter 8 – Errors, Failures and Risks |
| 11 Mar. 22 - 26 | Baase Chapter 9 – Professional Ethics and Responsibilities  
Baase Appendix A – Software Engineering Code and ACM Code |
| 12 Mar. 29 – Apr. 2 | Research Study – Research Ethics, Human Subjects Training, IRB application  
No class Friday |
| 13 Apr. 5 - 9 | Research Study – Draft Introduction, Literature Review and Research Methodology  
develop online survey |
| 14 Apr. 12 - 16 | Research Study – Gather data, Analyze data |
| 15 Apr. 19 – 23 | Research Study – Write Analysis and Conclusions |
| 16 Apr. 26 – 30 | Final Paper Due Friday, April 30 at 5:00 p.m. |