

2/2005

Course Title: INFO XXX Information Ethics

Course Level: Graduate Courses

Reviewed by: IST Faculty

Date Reviewed: 6/2004

1. Course Description

Presents the philosophical foundations of applied ethics and technology with primary focus on (1.) the uses and abuses of information, (2.) human moral agency in relation to new information and communication technologies (ICTs), and (3.) the meaning of social responsibility in the global information society, including the concepts of global information justice and human rights.

2. Entry Requirements

No specific prerequisite.

3. Prerequisite to:

No specific course.

4. Exit Competencies

Prepares the students to:

- Identify and analyze ethical issues within the context of professional practice and contemporary life;
- Understand major and alternative ethical traditions and how they are used to engage contemporary ethical dilemmas;
- Evaluate and articulate arguments appropriate for personal and professional decision-making and for civic participation.

5. Course Content

Principal topics and the approximate number of sessions devoted to each are:

- Introduction to information ethics in relation to other areas of applied ethics, including computer ethics, cyberethics, engineering ethics, media ethics, and related areas, and current challenges (1)
- Philosophy of information and philosophy of technology as applied in contemporary life (1)
- Various models of decision making in professional practice (2)
- The application of information ethics to professional practice and participation in public policy, including the relationship between ethics and law (2)
- Current ethical dilemmas under the broad categories of Access, Ownership, Privacy, Security, and Community such as intellectual property rights, copyright, and copyleft; the USA Patriot Act and civil rights; the digital divide and information democracy; and global information justice (4)

6. Presentation and Evaluation

A combination of lecture and class discussions will guide student contributions including an electronic portfolio including weekly written assignments, case studies, and a final

problem analysis. Evaluation will be based on these assignments.

7. Course Materials

Required text and readings will change every term.

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