Fall 2019

IS 350-455: Computers, Society and Ethics

Esther Lewars

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Course Information	
Course Title**: Computers, Society and Ethics**	
Course Number: **IS 350-455**	Prerequisites**: See below**
Class Session: **Online**	Required Background: **goo.gl/luGEUd**
Room Location: **Distance Learning**	Notes and Articles: **canvas.njit.edu**

Faculty Information	
Instructor: **Esther Lewars, Ed.S.**	Email: elewars@njit.edu *(Include IS350 in Subject)*
Office Hours: **By Appointment** Format: **Virtual via Google Meet**	Google Voice: ***973-996-8438*** ***(Email or Text Preferred - Include IS350)***

Course Prerequisites

GER (CS 100, CS 101, CS 103, CS 104, CS 111, CS 113, CS 115, or BNFO 135), AND any History and Humanities GER 200 level course AND HUM 101. Examines the historical evolution of computer and information systems and explores their implications in the home, business, government, medicine and education. Topics include automation and job impact, privacy, and legal and ethical issues.

Course Format

For the Distance Learning version of IS350, most of the work will be at an individual pace. There will be scheduled WebEx sessions where we will discuss current topics relevant to the course material and answer any questions regarding the material. You will engage in some other activities on-line and separately with team members. All are mandatory. You will be responsible for reading the textbook and online materials, participating in online discussions and activities, and doing all assignments.

Course Description

IS 350 examines the historical evolution of computer and information systems and explores their implications in the home, business, government, medicine and education. Topics include automation and job impact, privacy, and legal and ethical issues.

Time Required

This course requires a significant amount of work to help you achieve these goals. On average, you need to set aside up to 9 hours a week for this course, including discussion postings, lecture reviews, online activities, reading, studying the materials, homework and team activities.

Course Objectives

Upon the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Explain beneficial and detrimental ways in which computing affects people, including the primary and secondary effects, and intended and unintended consequences.
2. Utilize theories of ethical decision-making and professional codes of ethics to analyze difficult situations with computing aspects.
3. Find and critically evaluate relevant literature pertaining to a situation of concern.
4. Communicate about difficult issues in the computing sciences.

   This is an ambitious set of goals, which meets several of the requirements for an ABET accredited degree in Computing Sciences.

Required Textbook, Readings, and Materials

- **Required Text**: various options
    - Michael J. Quinn, Ethics for the Information Age, 7^h edition (2016).
        - *- printed, rental and online versions are available through the NJIT bookstore*
    - Alternative online version through CourseSmart ($41);
        - *-* coursesmart.com/9780133744088
    - A hard copy of the fifth edition, may be "mostly good enough", but your exams will mostly come from the 6th edition and it has some new material
- **Readings & Materials**
    - All required journal articles will be linked to in Canvas and/ or available through the NJIT digital library.
    - **Note**: From time to time I may assign additional readings and other materials.
    - **Words of Wisdom**: *Do not get behind in reading the text and articles! You will regret it!*

- **Course Management System:**
    - **Moodle - http://canvas.njit.edu/**
    - **NJIT Google Classroom - http://classroom.google.com (Join w/Class Code 365z66)**

Academic Integrity Policy

Every assignment/project is a 'home-mini-exam.' The NJIT Honor Code will be strictly upheld.
Any evidence of cheating in any form, including plagiarism and cutting & pasting from the Internet, will be dealt with according to the honor code of NJIT (course failure and suspension or expulsion). Please note: There will be no warnings or chances with regard to cheating. Any discovered case of cheating will be immediately passed to the Dean of Students for further investigation.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE REMOTE EXAM PROCTORING SOFTWARE SUCH AS RESPONDUS.

WARNING: Cheating is not worth it - you may not only fail this course, but also be suspended from NJIT. The full text of the NJIT Honor Code is available at http://www.njit.edu/academics/honorcode.php.

Lecture & Recitations

The lecture slides cover the major course content and supplement (not repeat) the textbook. Readings and other online materials further supplement both the lecture slides and the textbook.

Canvas – Course materials and other information are on Canvas (canvas.njit.edu/).

Assignments

1. **Library Analysis** – How to use the library and to find good sources.
2. **Weekly Discussions** – Forum postings to discuss course content or current events related to ethics and technology
3. **Weekly Short Quiz** – To ensure you are prepared and have read the material, there is a quiz each week on the week's readings.
4. **Debate** – As part of a team you will persuasively argue about an ethical dilemma concerning technology in a debate format.
5. **Current Events Assignment**– This is an individual assignment that focuses on an interesting and timely topic showing the impact of technology on society. There are several parts to this assignment. They are:
   1. **Submit Current Event Topic**
   2. **Midterm Exam**
      1. **Current Event Report**
      2. **Current Event PowerPoint Presentation**
      3. **Recording of your Current Event Presentation**
   3. **Final Exam – Ethical Analysis of your Current Event**
6. **Terms of Service Assignment** – Create a personal terms of service document.
7. **Introduce Yourself** – Short posting to introduce yourself to the class.
8. **Surveys**. Some sections will include extra-credit surveys.

Community Service Internship (*optional*) – NJIT Career Services can provide you the opportunity to work with a Newark-area non-profit organization using your skills to help that organization achieve its goals. This is a great experience, great service, can open doors for you, and looks great on your resume! Other community service will be accepted with prior approval from the professor.

General Policy

Grading and other Requirements:

"A" breakers – You must do 2 things to be *eligible* for an A.

1. Post all assignments on time. Late assignments will lose a full letter grade for every **2 weeks it is late**.
2. Participate in online discussions. Discussions are a major part of the class. Late postings prevent replies from other students. All discussions must be posted before the due date or a minimum of 1 full letter grade will be **deducted from the post**.

If you will miss any assignment deadline or session, email me in advance. Otherwise you will be disqualified from an A. (Emailing me does not necessarily earn back the A, but is a required courtesy.) The percentages for all course work are as follows. These are subject to adjustment.
Note that the instructor may decide to grade on a curve.

Assignments and Assessments (Some Dates are Subject to Change)

Assignments	Due Date	Percentage of Total Grade
Weekly Discussions Postings	Every Friday Night	**15%**
Weekly Quizzes • **Fake News Quiz**	Every Sunday Night Sep. 15th*	10% 5%
Introduce Yourself	Sep. 15th	**2%**
Terms of Service assignment	Sep. 29th	**5%**
Current Event Topic	Oct. 6th	N/A
Shaming Ethical Analysis	Oct. 13th	3%
Current Event Midterm 1. Paper 2. Recorded Presentation 3. Comments on 2 Other's Presentations	Oct. 20th	**25% of total broken into:** (10%) (10%) (5%)

Final: Knowledge Management Google Site
1. Course Self - reflection
2. Argument and resources
3. Rebuttal and resources
4. Comments on peer's site (2):
    a. 1 argument
    b. 1 rebuttal
	
	Nov. 24th
	Dec. 5th
	Dec. 5th
	Dec.15th
		30% of total broken into:
		5%
		10%
		10%
		5%

Current Event Final Ethical Analysis	Nov. 15th	**10%**

Grading Scales

    90% - 100% = A

    86% - 89% = B+

    80% - 85% = B

    76% - 79% = C+

    70% - 75% = C

    65% - 69% = D

     0% - 64% = F

Suggestions, Questions, Problems and Falling Behind

If you have any problems or feel like you are falling behind, please contact me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to recognize problems as early as problem, so we can work together to keep you progressing. Feel free to email me or request a virtual office hours if your concern is more private.

I welcome suggestions and questions. I encourage you to also post these in Canvas General forum, so we can all share in the discussion.