Fall 2019

IS 350-009: Computers, Society and Ethics

Linda Plotnick

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Course Format

We meet for discussion, lectures and other activities usually twice a week for day classes and once a week, (3 hours) for evening classes. You will engage in some other activities separately with team members. All are mandatory. You will be responsible for preparing for class, attending and participating in all classes, reading the textbook and all online materials, doing all assignments, and posting assignments on Moodle. If you must miss a class, email me in advance. You will be responsible for finding out what you missed.

Instructor

Linda Plotnick   *(include "IS350" and your class*
Office: TBD   *section in the email subject)*

E-mail: linda.plotnick@njit.edu
Office Hours*:*
        By appointment

IS350 section 9
Tuesdays 1 pm to 3:50 pm
Kupf 108

General Course Information

1. **Prerequisites**:

    As prerequisites, IS 350 requires an introductory course in computing, an introductory course in the social sciences, and HUM 101. This course is an upper-level course designed for juniors and seniors.

2. **Course Goals**:

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

    a. Explain beneficial and detrimental ways in which computing affects people, including the primary and secondary effects, and intended and unintended consequences.

    b. Utilize theories of ethical decision-making and professional codes of ethics to analyze difficult situations with computing aspects.

    c. Find and critically evaluate relevant literature pertaining to a situation of concern.

    d. 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 the Computing Sciences.

3. **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, lecture, other classroom and online activities, reading, studying the materials, homework and team activities. (This is even more compressed during the summer sections.)

4. **Readings & Online Materials –** Readings and other online materials supplement the lecture slides and the textbook.

5. **Moodle** – Course materials and other information are on Moodle (moodle.njit.edu).

6. **Assignments /Course Work**

   a. **Ethics Case Analysis, Assignment 1** - The only way to truly understand ethics is to apply the theories to real-world situations. Individuals will be responsible for reading and analyzing an ethical case scenario.

   b. **Library Assignment** – Advice from an NJIT Librarian. (NOT DURING Summer)

   c. **Weekly Short Quiz** – We'll hold substantial discussion of the week's topics in class. To ensure you are prepared and have read the material, there is a quiz before the first class meeting of the week on the week's readings. You are allowed one retake before the deadline and the retake may have different questions.

   d. **Debate** – As part of a team you will persuasively argue about an ethical dilemma concerning technology in a debate format.

   e. **Current Events Presentation** – This is an individual assignment that focuses on an interesting and timely topic showing the impact of technology on society. Each person will present **their APPROVED topic** in class during the term.

   f. **Participation**. IS 350 is a discussion-based course, where students especially learn by participating in class discussions and other activities.

   g. **Surveys**. Some sections will include extra-credit surveys.

7. **Community Service Internship** (*optional – NOT During Summer*) – 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!

Required Textbook, Readings & Materials

Textbook (various options)

Michael J. Quinn, Ethics for the Information Age, 7th edition (2017).
- printed, rental and online versions are available through the NJIT bookstore

Alternative online version through VitalSource ($48);
- (see link on Moodle)

(If you have a hard copy of the sixth edition, it may be "mostly good enough", but your weekly quizzes will mostly come from the 7th edition and it has some new material.)

Readings & Materials

All required journal articles will be linked to the course in Moodle and/or be available through the NJIT digital library.

Note: From time to time I may assign additional readings and other materials.

<u>Words of Wisdom</u>

Do not get behind in reading the text and articles! You will regret it!

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 possible, so we can work together to keep you progressing. Feel free to email me or make an appointment to visit during office hours if your comment is more private.

I welcome suggestions and questions. I encourage you to post these in the Moodle "Questions and Interesting Links" forum, so we can all share in the discussion.

Grading and other Requirements:

 "A" breakers – You must do 3 things to be *eligible* for an A.

1. Post all assignments **on time**. No Late assignments will be accepted.

2. Participate in classroom and online discussions.

3. Attend all sessions or email me ahead of time if you will be late or cannot attend class.

    a. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class.

    b. If you have four (4) unexcused absences you will lose one Letter Grade

    c. If you have six (6) unexcused absences you will be given an "F" for the course

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 necessary earn back the A, but is a required courtesy.)

The percentages for all course work are as follows. These are subject to adjustment.

Deliverables	Percentage
Assignment: Library Assignment	5%
Assignment 1: Ethical Case Analysis	5%
Assignment: Debate (group)	15%
Assignment: Current Events Presentation	10%
Assignment: Current Events Slides	5%
Turkle Assignment	5%
Weekly Quizzes	15%

Midterm Report	20%
Final Report	20%
TOTAL	*100%*

Grading Policy

• A 90 and up • B+ 85 to 89 • B 80 to 84	• C+ 75 to 79 • C 70 to 74 • D 65 to 69 • F less than 65

What if I Don't Agree with my Grade?

If you do not agree with your grade, you have 1 week to dispute it after it is posted.   Follow the instructions on Moodle.

But What If Moodle Crashes and I Cannot Submit Homework or Complete my Midterm or Final?

What if…?   Would your boss accept such an excuse? Do NOT wait till the last minute to do your homework or take your exam. There are many computers on campus available for your use, hence, no excuse.

Academic Honesty, Integrity and Cheating

*Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: **http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf**.*

*Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. **Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu*