

Southern Connecticut State University

Syllabus – CSC/PHI 324 – Computer Ethics – Fall 2006

Instructor	Professor T. W. Bynum
Office	Engleman Hall, Room 214D
Telephone	203-392-6790
WebCT Site	This course has a WebCT web site where most out-of-class course activities will take place (discussions, surveys, quizzes). Here is the web address: <p style="text-align: center;">http://webct.southernct.edu</p>
Email	Please use the email service on the WebCT site for all course-related email messages.
Alternate Email	For non-course-related messages: bynumt2@southernct.edu
Office Hours	Monday – 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm Wednesday – 10:00 am to Noon Thursday – 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm And by appointment

Students are encouraged to take advantage of these office hours. The instructor has reserved them for consultations with you. They can be used to answer questions, to resolve course-related problems, or simply to discuss Computer Ethics as a field. For brief questions, you are urged to use email, since that is often the quickest way for the instructor to reply.

Catalog Description Application of ethical theories to problems created, aggravated or transformed by computer technology. Topics include, for example, privacy, computer crime, professional responsibility, replacement of human decision-making by computer decision-making, intellectual property, globalization of ethical issues.

Course Objectives

1. Students should acquire a broad perspective on the social and ethical impacts and implications of information technology.
2. Students should acquire specific knowledge about major issues in several different areas of the field of Computer Ethics.

3. Students should acquire in-depth knowledge of at least one significant ethical issue generated by information technology.
4. Students should develop skills in clarifying and ethically analyzing realistic cases that involve information technology.
5. Students should exercise and improve their skills in critical and analytical writing.

Textbook T.W. Bynum and S. Rogerson, Editors, *Computer Ethics and Professional Responsibility*, Blackwell, 2004.

Handouts In addition to the textbook listed above, reading materials for this course will include articles and other handouts as appropriate. Normally, these will be posted on the course WebCT site.

Other Materials Slide shows, video and audio clips, and other electronic resources will be integrated into the course in class or on the WebCT site.

Graded Assignments This is a “W” course, which is part of the University’s “Writing-Across-the-Curriculum” Program.” So each student will produce 5,000 words of analytical writing, more than half of which will be revised, based upon comments of the instructor. In addition, each student will take five online quizzes and give one classroom web site demonstration. These assignments, plus class participation, can generate a maximum of 1,000 “grade points”, which will be used to determine the student’s course grade. (See the attached list of assignments and grade points.)

Assistance for Students with Disabilities Students with disabilities that could affect their course participation should contact the University’s Center for Adaptive Technology for advice and assistance. (Phone: 203-392-5799) That Center and the instructor of this course work together to answer student questions and resolve any difficulties they may have participating in the course.

Attendance Active student participation is essential to the quality and success of this course. Every student brings at least 18 years of human experience to the classroom and can enrich the learning experiences of everyone, including the instructor, through active participation in discussions, team research, and other course activities.

The course follows the attendance policy expressed in the University's Schedule of Classes; namely, that students are expected to attend class regularly and are responsible for any material presented in a class whether they attended or not. (Get notes from a classmate and handouts from the WebCT site or the instructor).

Two "cuts" or *unexcused* absences are permitted. After that, a student's course grade will decrease by two percent (20 grade points) per additional *unexcused* absence. Students can check their course attendance record at any time on the WebCT site.

**Academic
Honesty**

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on academic honesty expressed in the *Student Handbook*. This course presupposes that policy. **Beware of plagiarism! Submitting the writing of others as if it were your own work is unethical and will result in an automatic failure of the course!**

Schedule of Class Meetings, Readings and Assignments

Each class session is 75 minutes long, and there are 28 class sessions in the semester. In addition, most out-of-class activities (quizzes, surveys, team discussions, etc.) occur on the WebCT web site associated with the course. At the end of the semester, students meet one-on-one with the instructor to review the student's course achievements. (Research Project due dates vary from student to student and are determined by consultation with the instructor during the semester.)

Mtg No	Topic and Class Activity	Work Due	Readings
1	Introduction to Computer Ethics <i>Pre-test given, then a lecture by the instructor</i>	Course Pre-test given in class	None
2	History of Computer Ethics I <i>Lecture by instructor</i>		Textbook, 1-13 Posted handout(s)
3	History of Computer Ethics II <i>Lecture by instructor</i>		Posted handout(s)
4	Nature of Computer Ethics <i>Lecture by instructor</i>		Textbook, 17-38 Posted handout(s)
5	Research Topics and Teams <i>Class discussion of possible research topics, formation of student research teams</i>	1. Complete the on-line quiz on the history and nature of computer ethics 2. Complete the student survey on course topics	Posted handout(s)
6	Introduction to Case Analysis <i>Lecture by instructor</i>		Textbook, 60-86 Posted handouts
7	Case Analysis Practice <i>Students work in teams</i>	Submit drafts of research topic proposals	Posted handout(s)
8	Professional Ethics <i>Lecture by instructor</i>		Textbook, 91-97, 107-118
9	Licensing Computer Professionals <i>Lecture by instructor</i>		Textbook, 157-166

10	Codes of Ethics <i>Lecture by instructor</i>	Submit revised research topic proposals	Textbook, 135-141, 169-201
11	Professional Ethics Case Analysis <i>Students work in teams</i>		Posted handout(s)
12	Class-Selected Course Topic 1 <i>Lecture by instructor or visitor</i>		Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
13	Class-Selected Course Topic 1 <i>Lecture or film plus discussion</i>	Complete the online quiz on Professional Ethics	Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
14	Class-Selected Course Topic 1 <i>Students' web-research reports</i> <i>Class discussion of Topic 1</i>		None
15	Class-Selected Course Topic 1 Case Analysis <i>Students work in teams</i>		Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
16	Class-Selected Course Topic 2 <i>Lecture by instructor or visitor</i>		Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
17	Class-Selected Course Topic 2 <i>Lecture or film plus discussion</i>	Complete the online quiz on Topic 1	Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
18	Class-Selected Course Topic 2 <i>Student's web-research reports</i> <i>Class discussion of Topic 2</i>		None
19	Class-Selected Course Topic 2 Case Analysis <i>Students work in teams</i>		Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
20	Class-Selected Course Topic 3 <i>Lecture by instructor or visitor</i>		Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
21	Class-Selected Course Topic 3 <i>Lecture or film plus discussion</i>	Complete the online quiz on topic 2	Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
22	Class-Selected Course Topic 3 <i>Student's web-research reports</i> <i>Class discussion of Topic 3</i>		None
23	Class-Selected Course Topic 3 Case Analysis <i>Students work in teams</i>		Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)

24	Class-Selected Course Topic 4 <i>Lecture by instructor or visitor</i>		Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
26	Class-Selected Course Topic 4 <i>Lecture or film plus discussion</i>	Complete the online quiz on topic 3	Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
27	Class-Selected Course Topic 4 <i>Student's web-research reports</i> <i>Class discussion of Topic 4</i>		None
28	Class-Selected Course Topic 4 Case Analysis <i>Students work in teams</i>		Relevant textbook pages or handout(s)
29	One-on-one meetings of each student with the instructor to review the student's course achievements	1. Complete the online quiz on Topic 4 2. Final research papers due at the meeting with the instructor 3. Complete the online Post-test before meeting with the instructor	None