Master Course Syllabus
School of Engineering and Computer Science
Washington State University Vancouver
CS 402 [M]
Social and Professional Issues in Computer Science
3 Semester Hours
(3 lecture hours)

Catalog Description
Social, legal, ethical and professional issues that arise in the context of computing.

Prerequisite Courses
- ENGLISH 402 or 403
- Certified major in Computer Science

Prerequisite Topics
- General computer literacy
- General understanding of computer programming and networks
- Well-developed critical thinking skills
- Ability to compose and author undergraduate research papers

Measured Course Outcomes
Students taking this course will:
1. Write a well-organized position paper. (Contributes to performance criterion 3-a.)
2. Deliver a well-organized presentation. (Contributes to performance criterion 3-b.)
3. Interact with others in a professional manner. (Contributes to performance criterion 3-c.)
4. Identify the ethical responsibilities associated with professional practice as enumerated by the ACM code of ethics. (Contributes to performance criterion 4-a.)
5. Evaluate ethical and legal issues associated with safety, security, intellectual property, privacy, etc., that may occur in computer science. (Contributes to performance criterion 4-b.)

Textbooks
None specified.

Reference Material
Ethics for the Information Age, by Michael J. Quinn, Addison Wesley.

Major Topics Covered in the Course
1. History and social context of computing/electrical engineering
2. Privacy, anonymity and encryption
3. Risks and reliability of systems and information
4. Constitutional rights and issues
5. Computer crime
6. Intellectual property

7. Ethics theory
8. Workplace ethics and responsibilities
9. Professional ethics and responsibility

Projects

Programming Project Area	Weeks
(None)	

Design, Implementation and Analysis

There is no significant analysis of technical problems in this course. However, numerous ethical and social problems are analyzed, both by students and in a lecture format by the instructor. These analyses include identifying and critiquing sources of information and the development of the student's ability to recognize and evaluate ethical issues.
In addition, students are asked to propose and defend solutions to some of the ethical dilemmas posed in this course. This course is the primary means by which computer science students are instructed in the social and ethical issues associated with computing.

M Course Designation

This course receives the [M] writing in the Major designation. As of September 2018, such courses require:

- At least two writing assignments evaluated
- Writing assignments that reflect M-course goals within the discipline
- Writing assignments that emphasize mastery of course content and discipline
- Evaluation criteria consistent with the goals of the assignments and included with assignment
- At least 30% of the course grade is based on writing assignments

CS2013

This course provides coverage of CS2013 knowledge areas. Values listed are minimum course hours dedicated to the topic, percentages indicate the fraction of CS2013 knowledge area topics covered (acceptable values are: <25%, 25-75%, >75%, or 100%).

Area	Tier 1	Tier 2	Elective
SP/Social Context	1 (25-75%)	2 (25-75%)	N
SP/Analytical Tools	2 (25-75%)		N
SP/Professional Ethics	2 (25-75%)	1 (25-75%)	N
SP/Intellectual Property	2 (>75%)		Y
SP/Privacy and Civil Liberties	2 (>75%)		Y
SP/Professional Communication	1 (<25%)		Y

Area	Tier 1	Tier 2	Elective
SP/Security Policies, Laws and Computer Crimes			Y 2 (25-75%)

Course Coordinator:	Ben McCamish
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