



Computer Ethics PHIL 3318W, CISC 2820W
Mon 6:30 – 9:10 PM, Section EM6, Class Number 17241
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Computer Ethics course is intended to give students a chance to reflect on the humanitarian, social, and cultural impact of computer technology by focusing on ethical issues faced by and brought about by computing professionals, including those related to networking and the internet, intellectual property, privacy, security, reliability, and liability. The course will stress the ways in which computers challenge traditional ethical and philosophical concepts, and raise old issues in a new way.

We will also focus on changing attitudes toward work and wealth related to the open source phenomenon, as well as issues raised by the possible emergence in the future of highly intelligent machines. We will consider these matters through reading, writing, discussion, and presentation.

At the completion of the course students are expected to:

1. Explain why ethics is important in information technology and why ethical responsibilities go beyond compliance with laws and regulations.
2. Describe and apply an ethical decision-making model to an information technology scenario/problem.
3. Describe ethical issues and apply current laws regarding free speech and content control in information technology.
4. Describe and apply current laws regarding intellectual property in information technology.
5. Describe and apply current laws regarding privacy in information technology.
6. Evaluate how to resolve ethical issues in information technology by using a framework of five moral theories: utilitarianism, rights, distributive justice, ethics of care, and virtue ethics.