Summary: This course is an introduction to some of the most important social and ethical issues surrounding computers and information technology. We will explore these issues through careful examination of concrete case studies informed by the conceptual and theoretical frameworks of contemporary moral philosophy and science and technology studies, or STS.

We will give special attention to the many complex ways in which information technology and social practices co-create and co-shape each other. Topics include the nature of ethics, the nature of technology, information privacy and surveillance, digital intellectual property, the hacker ethic, freedom of expression, net neutrality, professional ethics in computing, and democracy and the internet, among others.

Objectives: Having successfully completed this course, you should be able to:

- identify common misconceptions about ethics and technology
- explain the nature of the relationship between technology and society
- apply the dialectic method to complex ethical issues surrounding technology
- evaluate professional codes of ethics in the field of computers and information technology

Prerequisites: COP 3502C or DIG 2000 or PHI 2647.

Catalog description: Critical thinking applied to ethics in science and technology.

COURSE POLICIES

Make-up work: In the interest of fairness for all students, make-up work for in-class exercises, the midterm exam, and the final exam will not be offered except in the case of extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances. As per university policy, students who will miss course activities due to participation in university-authorized intercollegiate athletics, band, choir, co-curricular activities are responsible for presenting a signed copy of the Program Verification Form prior to the class in which the absence occurs.

Grade dissemination: In accordance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, UCF does not permit the communication of grades to a student by email (including grades embedded in documents). You can access your scores via Webcourses.

Grades of “Incomplete”: By UCF policy, incompletes are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the “I” will automatically be recorded as an “F” on your transcript.

Email: All official communications from the instructor will be sent to students’ Knightsmail accounts. When communicating with the instructor by email, students must use their Knightsmail accounts. Students are responsible for checking their accounts regularly. See https://www.secure.net.ucf.edu/knightsmail/.

Academic Conduct Policy: Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida’s Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor’s discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.
### COURSE SCHEDULE  (deadlines for assignments on Webcourses, subject to revision)

#### Week 1: Why computer ethics?
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 1**
- **Johnson: pp. 2-13**
- **Discussion 1**
- **Quiz 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1: Why computer ethics?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dacey: Guide to Week 1</td>
<td>Jan 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson: pp. 2-13</td>
<td>Jan 7</td>
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<td>Discussion 1</td>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>1 pts</td>
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<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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#### Week 2: Sociotechnological systems
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 2**
- **Johnson: pp. 13-23**
- **Discussion 2**
- **Quiz 1**

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<tr>
<td>Johnson: pp. 13-23</td>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion 2</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>1 pts</td>
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<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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#### Week 3: Doing ethics
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 3**
- **Johnson: pp. 24-35**
- **Plato: The Euthyphro**
- **Discussion 3**

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<td>Johnson: pp. 24-35</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
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<td>Plato: The Euthyphro</td>
<td>Jan 26</td>
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<td>Discussion 3</td>
<td>Jan 26</td>
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#### Week 4: Ethical theories
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 4**
- **Johnson: pp. 35-52**
- **Discussion 4**
- **Quiz 2**

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<td>Dacey: Guide to Week 4</td>
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<td>Johnson: pp. 35-52</td>
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<td>10 pts</td>
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#### Week 5: IT-Configured societies
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 5**
- **Johnson: pp. 54-72**
- **Discussion 5**

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<td>Johnson: pp. 54-72</td>
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<td>Discussion 5</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
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#### Week 6: Democracy & the internet
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 6**
- **Johnson: 72-80**
- **Discussion 6**
- **Quiz 3**

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 6: Democracy &amp; the internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dacey: Guide to Week 6</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson: 72-80</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion 6</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>1 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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### Week 7: Information, privacy & surveillance
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 7**
  - Feb 18
- **Johnson: pp. 82-96**
  - Feb 18
- **Discussion 7**
  - Feb 25
  - 1 pts

### Week 8: Information, privacy & surveillance cont.
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 8**
  - Feb 25
- **Johnson: pp. 96-108**
  - Feb 25
- **Project topic approved**
  - Feb 25
- **Discussion 8**
  - Mar 11
- **Quiz 4**
  - Mar 11
  - 10 pts

### Spring Break: March 4-9
- Hide module contents
- Add item to module

### Week 9: Digital intellectual property
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 9**
  - Mar 11
- **Johnson: pp. 110-124**
  - Mar 11
- **Discussion 9**
  - Mar 18
  - 1 pts

### Week 10: Digital intellectual property cont.
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 10**
  - Mar 18
- **Johnson: pp. 124-136**
  - Mar 18
- **Discussion 10**
  - Mar 25
  - 1 pts
- **Quiz 5**
  - Mar 25
  - 10 pts

### Week 11: Digital order
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 11**
  - Apr 1
- **Johnson: pp. 137-150**
  - Apr 1
- **Discussion 11**
  - Apr 1
  - 1 pts

### Week 12: Digital order cont.
- **Dacey: Guide to Week 12**
  - Apr 1
- **Johnson: pp. 150-161**
  - Apr 1
- **Discussion 12**
  - Apr 8
  - 1 pts
- **Quiz 6**
  - Apr 8
  - 10 pts
### Week 13: Professional ethics in computing

- **Dacey: Guide to Week 13**
  - Apr 8
- **Johnson: pp. 183-177**
  - Apr 8
- **Discussion 13**
  - Apr 15
  - 1 pts

### Week 14: Professional ethics in computing cont.

- **Dacey: Guide to Week 14**
  - Apr 15
- **Johnson: pp. 178-193**
  - Apr 15
- **Discussion 14**
  - Apr 22
  - 1 pts
- **Project due**
  - Apr 22
  - 90 pts

### Week 15: Summary & Conclusions

- **Dacey: Summary & Conclusions**
  - Apr 22

### Final exam

- will unlock Apr 22 at 12pm