

**INFO I453/NEWM N485/NEWM N585 Computer and Information  
Ethics**

**Department of Human-Centered Computing Indiana University  
School of Informatics and Computing, IUPUI Spring 2016**

*Section No.* 1535129; 1510360; 1510657 *Credit Hours.* 3

*Time.* Online, asynchronous

*Location.* N/A

*First Class.* January 11, 2016

*Website.* <https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1535129>

*Instructor.* Seth R. Wilson, Esq.

*Office Hours.* Office hours are by appointment.

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[noblesville-attorney.com](http://noblesville-attorney.com)

*Prerequisites.* None. Required core course for undergraduate Informatics under Fall 2013 Plan of Study. Elective for undergraduate new media degrees and other programs.

**Course Coach**

There is a virtual coach for the course. His name is "Tipster" and he may be helping you throughout the semester with tips, suggestions and encouragement.

## **Course Description**

Ethical and professionalization issues that arise in the context of designing and using networked information technologies and information resources. Examines frameworks for making ethical decisions, emergent technologies and their ethical implications, information/computer professionalism. Topics include privacy, intellectual property, cybercrime, games, social justice, and codes of professional ethics.

## **Required Textbook**

Title: *Ethics for the Information Age*.

Author: Quinn, Michael J.

Edition: 6th ed., 2015. **Be sure that you purchase the 6th edition.**

Publisher: Addison-Wesley (Pearson).

ISBN: 978-0-13-374162-9.

Available at the Barnes & Noble bookstore on the IUPUI campus or various online vendors.

## **Additional Reading**

The textbook will be supplemented with readings from business, legal and technology journals, PowerPoint presentations, websites and sample forms, templates and agreements. This material will be posted on Canvas.

## **IUPUI Principles of Undergraduate Learning (PUL) -**

<http://iport.iupui.edu/selfstudy/tl/puls/>

Faculty members are required to designate a PUL of Major, Moderate and Some Emphasis for every course in the undergraduate curriculum.

For INFO I453/NEWM N485 Computer and Information Ethics, the PULs are:

- Major Emphasis: 6 Values and Ethics
- Moderate Emphasis: 5 Understanding Society and Culture
- Some Emphasis: 2 Critical Thinking

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain how ethical and legal issues are often unintended consequences of the introduction of new technology. [PULs 6 and 2][DF 1-5, 15; Q#1]
- Define the major theories and frameworks that have shaped the study of ethics and ethical or moral behavior. [PULs 6, 5 and 2][DF 2-3; Q#1; MP; SR]
- Apply theories and methods to identify ethical challenges with emergent information technologies. [PULs 6, 5 and 2][All DF; Q# 2-4; MP; SR]
- Articulate the issues at the intersection of law and ethics, especially as they relate to new technology. [PULs 6, 5 and 2][DF 2-15; Q#1-#4; MP; SR]
- Identify the impact that values and cultural beliefs have had on the development of professional ethics and ethical decision making. [PULs 6 and 5][DF 5-6; Q#1; MP; SR]
- Interpret the current law related to intellectual property and the extent to which it meets technology in the 21st century. [PULs 6, 5 and 2][DF 6-7; Q#2; MP; SR]
- Assess the interrelationship between individual privacy and the legal,

regulatory and technological challenges to privacy. [PUL 6, 5 and 2][DF 7-9; Q#2; MP; SR]

- Explain the ethical issues and regulatory requirements for using human beings and animals as research subjects. [PULs 6, 5 and 2][DF 11-13, 14-15; Q#3-#4]
- Interpret a variety of professional codes of ethics and how to apply these codes of ethics in decision-making, especially as an informatics or IT professional. [PULs 6 and 2][Q#4, DF 13-14]
- Reflect upon real-world ethical dilemmas that may be faced by informatics and IT professionals. [PULs 6, 5 and 2][All DF; Pr; Po; MP; SR]
- Evaluate their own readiness for making ethical decisions in their careers and identify additional information/training/resources that would be helpful. [PUL 6 and 2][Pr; Po; MP; SR]

Q=Quiz

DF=Discussion Forum

Pr=Pre-Test on Computer and Information Ethics

Po=Post-Test on Computer and Information Ethics

MP=Midterm Project

SR=Self-Reflection on Computer and Information Ethics

### **Software Used**

Any software and related materials will be provided by vendors at no charge to students or the school.

## **Expectations/Guidelines/Policies**

Assignments are due by the stated deadline, although you can certainly

submit them earlier if you wish. **If you need an extension, you must have prior approval via email and I reserve the right to deduct points for lateness. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted without prior approval.** Please note that all assignments, are due on Fridays at 5:00 p.m. Quizzes will open on Fridays at 5:00 p.m. and be available until Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Responses to the Discussion Forum questions are due on Sundays at 5:00 pm. The Self-Reflection on Computer and Information Ethics will be due on Friday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m. There is no final examination for this course.

There is no opportunity for extra credit in this course. Also, there is no opportunity to revise and resubmit assignments for a higher grade.

### **Administrative Withdrawal**

A basic requirement of this course is that you will conscientiously participate and complete all required course activities and/or assignments. Please notify me via email if you are unable to participate or complete an assignment on time. (See the information in the previous paragraph about requests for extensions and late assignments.) If you miss more than the first 25% of the course without contacting me, you may be administratively withdrawn from the course. Since our course is online and we do not meet, I use the Discussion Forum questions to monitor course participation. Note that the Pre-Test on Computer and Information Ethics **is also due within the first four weeks of the semester.** If you have not participated in these activities by the stated deadlines, you may be withdrawn. An administrative withdrawal may have academic, financial and financial aid implications. The administrative withdrawal will take place after the full

refund period and if you are administratively withdrawn from the course, you will not be eligible for a tuition refund. If you have questions about the administrative withdrawal policy at any point in the semester, please contact me.

### **Incomplete**

I am only allowed to assign an Incomplete (I) grade if at least 75% of the required coursework has been completed at passing quality and holding you to previously established time limits would result in unjust hardship to you. All unfinished work must be completed by the date set by the instructor. Left unchanged, an Incomplete automatically becomes an F after one year. <http://registrar.iupui.edu/incomp.html>.

### **Other Policies**

Work must be your own and it must be identified as such. Work of others, such as quotes used in a paper, must be properly identified and cited. Studying together is encouraged; however, sharing significant amounts of work or presenting the work of others as your own is not allowed. Please let me know if you have questions about the proper way to use quotations and citations. Also, please state the answers to assignment questions in your own words rather than cutting and pasting text from modules, websites, databases or other materials.

Since we do not meet face-to-face, you will need to make arrangements with me to pick up graded assignments. Most assignment and grading comments will be available electronically. According to campus policy, I am only required to keep your assignments for one month after they are graded and I reserve the option to dispose of them after that time. Regulations, policies, guidelines, requirements and updates are to be

followed, including those of Indiana University, IUPUI and the School of Informatics and Computing. This includes those that are printed in the IUPUI Spring 2015 Class Schedule, the IUPUI Campus Bulletin, posted or referenced in the course's website on Canvas, posted in a classroom, laboratory, office or other campus building or those presented or noted by faculty and staff members. There are a number of campus-wide policies governing the conduct of courses at IUPUI. These can be found at: [http://registrar.iupui.edu/course\\_policies.html](http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html). A Supplement to the Syllabus is also provided on the course's Canvas site which includes important school policies.

I reserve the right to revise the syllabus as needed during the semester.

## **Course Management and Helpful**

### **Hints**

There are no class meeting times per se for this course. Instead, this course is conducted "asynchronously", which means that we will be sending and receiving email messages and participating in "virtual discussions" using the Canvas system. Please note that this is the first class I have taught using this new system, so there will likely be some issues to work through as we progress this semester. Some of the terminology in this syllabus may refer back to a prior online course delivery system. If you are unsure where to go or what to do, please send me an email after you have tried to find the closest analogous area of Canvas.

If you click on the "Discussions" link on the left side of the Canvas screen, you can see that I have already set up a Discussion Forum for

each module of the course. Please make an effort to participate in the Discussion Forums regularly - not only is this 40 points towards your final course grade (5 points each), but it will also be a much more rewarding course if we all share our thoughts and expertise. You will also be reviewing and providing feedback to student responses from previous Discussion Forums. Points will be taken off if all questions in a Discussion Forum are not responded to, including not providing feedback to other students as indicated in the questions. This is a 3-credit hour course and we cover a great deal of material, so you can expect to be at least as busy as you would be in a course that meets face-to-face every week.

The course will be divided into weekly modules. Each module will officially begin on Monday. Modules will officially end at noon on Sundays, but once I have posted a module, it will be available throughout the semester in case you want to review. You will use the Canvas Resources link to access the modules.

For each module, there will be a reading assignment. Many of the reading assignments will be from the course textbook, but I may also upload, reference or provide a link to other materials as well. Whatever I upload will be provided through Canvas.

For each module, there will also be a series of online discussion questions. We will use the Canvas Discussion Forum to share the responses to these questions. Responses to the weekly Discussion Forum questions are due by Sundays at 5:00 pm.

**IMPORTANT:** All students will respond to the Discussion Forum questions for Module 1. Then the class will be divided in half – with half

of the students responding to the Discussion Forum questions for the even-numbered modules (Module 2, Module 4, etc.) and the other half of the students responding to the Discussion Forum questions for the odd-numbered modules (Module 3, Module 5, etc.).

You will need to read the responses for all of the Discussion Forum questions, especially those for the modules that you do not participate in, to get the maximum benefit from the course. You will also be reviewing and providing feedback to student responses from previous Discussion Forums. Points will be taken off if all questions in a Discussion Forum are not responded to, including not providing feedback to other students as indicated in the questions.

Each week, I may also provide a mini-lecture or outline of the topic of the module.

For some of the modules, there may also be a PowerPoint presentation, guest lecture or online demonstration. You will access these materials through Canvas.

For each module, I may provide a "Fireside Chat" audio file to remind you about deadlines, explain concepts or alert you to new issues. Details for accessing these materials will be added to the instructions for that particular module.

Finally, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to email me ([sethwils@iupui.edu](mailto:sethwils@iupui.edu)).

Tipster says, "The most important advice for the course is to stay organized."

Tipster cannot stress enough the importance of keeping up with the reading assignments and responding to the Discussion Forum questions

that you are responsible for (Module 1 and then either the even-numbered or odd-number modules). He has noticed a direct correlation between responding regularly to the Discussion Forum questions and doing well in the course.

Also, if this is your first online course, please understand that the burden is on you to stay organized, to know what needs to be done each week and to pay attention to the deadlines for assignments. I will use the Announcements feature in Canvas to let you know when modules are available and to remind you when assignments are due.

### **Equipment Needed**

Because this is an online course delivered through Canvas, you will need weekly access to a computer and a sufficiently stable network to handle large files. You will need to be able to listen to podcasts, view PowerPoint presentations and short videos, search the Internet and use the software products provided by vendors. I will also need to communicate with you by email, so all students will need to provide a valid email address. Also, if you are not going to access Canvas regularly, you will need to set the Canvas email to forward to your preferred email address.

## **Grading Information**

There are 200 points total in the course.

**Pre-Test on Computer and Information Ethics:** Available from Friday, January 22 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, January 24 at 5:00 p.m. 10 points [Corresponds to PULs 6, 5 and 2] (NOTE: You will need to take both the Pre-Test and Post-Test in order to complete the final assignment for the

course, the Self-Reflection on Computer and Information Ethics.)

**Quiz #1 (covers Modules 1-4):** Available from Friday, February 12 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, February 14 at 5:00 p.m. 20 points [Corresponds to PULs 6, 5 and 2]

**Quiz #2 (covers Modules 5-8):** Available from Friday, March 4 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m. 20 points [Corresponds to PULs 6, 5 and 2]

 **Midterm Project:** Due March 11 at 5:00 p.m. 30 points [Corresponds to PULs 6, 5 and 2]

**Quiz #3 (covers Modules 9-11):** Available from Friday, April 1 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, April 3 at 5:00 p.m. 20 points [Corresponds to PULs 6, 5 and 2]

**Post-Test on Computer and Information Ethics:** Available from Friday, April 15 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, April 17 at 5:00 p.m. 10 points [Corresponds to PULs 6, 5 and 2] (NOTE: You will need to take both the Pre-Test and Post-Test in order to complete the final assignment for the course, the Self-Reflection on Computer and Information Ethics.)

**Quiz #4 (covers Modules 12-14):** Available from Friday, April 22 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, April 24 at 5:00 p.m. 20 points [Corresponds to PULs 6, 5 and 2]

**Self-Reflection on Computer and Information Ethics:** Due Friday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m. 30 points [Corresponds to PULs 6, 5 and 2] (NOTE: You will need to have taken both the Pre-Test and Post-Test in order to complete the final assignment for the course, the Self-Reflection on Computer and Information Ethics.)

**Participation in Discussion Forums:** 40 points (5 points per Discussion

Forum – due Sundays by noon) [corresponds to PULs 6, 5 and 2]

NOTE: All students will participate in the Discussion Forum questions for Module 1. Then students will be divided into two groups, with students in one group responding to the Discussion Forum questions for even-numbered modules and the other group responding to the Discussion Forum questions for odd-numbered modules.

It will be important to read all of the responses to get the maximum benefit from the course. You will also be reviewing and providing feedback to student responses from previous Discussion Forums. Points will be taken off if all questions in a Discussion Forum are not responded to, including not providing feedback to other students as indicated in the questions.

Final course grades are calculated by adding up all of the points that you earned in the course and dividing by 200. This will give you a percentage. See the Grading Scale below for the minimum percentage that you need for each course grade. I don't round up the grades, so if you want an A in the course, you need to achieve at least a 93%.

I use the grades function in Canvas to post grades and provide feedback on your assignments.

### **Grading Scale [percentages and/or points]**

200 points possible.

Minimum percentages for each course grade:

100% A+

93% A

90% A-

87% B+

83% B  
80% B-  
77% C+  
73% C  
70% C-  
67% D+  
63% D  
60% D-  
Below 60% F

Undergraduate Students: No credits towards major, minor or certificate requirements are granted for a course grade below a C. No credits towards general education or elective requirements are granted for a course grade below C-.

## Course Schedule Detail

*Module 1: Week of 1/11*<sup>[SEP]</sup> Topic: Catalysts for Change

Reading Assignment: Chapter 1 in Quinn

*Module 2: Week of 1/18*<sup>[SEP]</sup> Topic: Introduction to Ethics

Reading Assignment: Chapter 2 in Quinn

**Pre-Test on Computer and Information Ethics: Available from Friday, January 22 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, January 24 at 5:00 p.m.**

*Module 3: Week of 1/25*<sup>[SEP]</sup> Topic: Values and Ethics – Legal Perspectives

Reading Assignment: To be distributed

*Module 4: Week of 2/1*<sup>[SEP]</sup> Topic: Values and Ethics – Cultural Perspectives

Reading Assignment: To be distributed

*Module 5: Week of 2/8*<sup>[SEP]</sup> Topic: Networked Communications

Reading Assignment: Chapter 3 in Quinn

**Quiz #1 (covers Modules 1-4): Available from Friday, February 12 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, February 14 at 5:00 p.m.**

*Module 6: Week of 2/15* SEP Topic: Intellectual Property

Reading Assignment: Chapter 4 in Quinn

*Module 7: Week of 2/22* SEP Topic: Information Privacy

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5 in Quinn

*Module 8: Week of 2/29*

Topic: Privacy and the Government

Reading Assignment: Chapter 6 in Quinn

**Quiz #2 (covers Modules 5-8): Available from Friday, March 4 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m.**

*Module 9: Week of 3/7* SEP Topic: Computer and Network Security

Reading Assignment: Chapter 7 in Quinn

**Midterm Project: Due Friday, March 11 at 5:00 p.m.**

*Week of 3/14*

Enjoy your Spring break!

*Module 10: Week of 3/21* SEP Topic: Computer Reliability

Reading Assignment: Chapter 8 in Quinn

*Module 11: Week of 3/28* SEP Topic: Ethics in Research

Reading Assignment: To be distributed and Appendix A in Quinn

**Quiz #3 (covers Modules 9-11): Available from Friday, April 1 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, April 3 at 5:00 p.m.**

*Module 12: Week of 4/4* SEP Topic: Ethics in Virtual Worlds and Games

Reading Assignment: To be distributed

*SEP* *Module 13: Week of 4/11* *L* *SEP* Topic: Professional Ethics and Codes of Conduct

Reading Assignment: Chapter 9 in Quinn

**Post-Test on Computer and Information Ethics: Available from Friday, April 15 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, April 17 at 5:00 p.m.**

*SEP* *Module 14: Week of 4/18* *L* *SEP* Topic: Ethics in Social Media and New Technologies

Reading Assignment: To be distributed

**Quiz #4 (covers Modules 12-14): Available from Friday, April 22 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, April 24 at 5:00 p.m.**

*SEP* *Module 15: Week of 4/25* *L* *SEP* Topic: Work and Wealth

Reading Assignment: Chapter 10 in Quinn

*SEP* *Week of 5/2* *L* *SEP* **Self-Reflection on Computer and Information Ethics: Due Friday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m.**