

IS 350 - Computer, Society & Ethics

Course Format

For the Distance Learning version of IS350, most of the work will be at an individual pace. There will be scheduled WebEx sessions where we will discuss current topics relevant to the course material and answer any questions regarding the material. You will engage in some other activities on-line and separately with team members. All are mandatory. You will be responsible for reading the textbook and online materials, participating in online discussion and activities, and doing all assignments.

Instructor

Prof. James Markulic
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(include "IS350" in the email subject)

Office Hours:

- By Appointment

General Course Information

1. Prerequisites:

As prerequisites, IS 350 requires an introductory course in computing, an introductory course in the social sciences, and HUM 101. This course is an upper-level course designed for juniors and seniors.

2. Course Goals:

Upon the completion of this course you should be able to:

- Explain beneficial and detrimental ways in which computing affects people, including the primary and secondary effects, and intended and unintended consequences.
- Utilize theories of ethical decision-making and professional codes of ethics to analyze difficult situations with computing aspects.
- Find and critically evaluate relevant literature pertaining to a situation of concern.
- Communicate about difficult issues in the computing sciences.

This is an ambitious set of goals, which meets several of the requirements for an ABET accredited degree in the Computing Sciences.

3. **Time Required** – This course requires a significant amount of work to help you achieve these goals. On average, you need to set aside up to 9 hours a week for this course, including discussion postings, lecture reviews, online activities, reading, studying the materials, homework and team activities. This is even more compressed during the Summer
4. **Lecture & Recitations** – The lecture slides cover the major course content and supplement (not repeat) the textbook. Readings and other online materials further supplement both the lecture slides and the textbook.
5. **Moodle** – Course materials and other information are on Moodle (moodle.njit.edu).
6. **Assignments**
 - a. **Library Analysis** – How to use the library and to find good sources.
 - b. **Weekly Discussions** – Forum postings to discuss course content or current events related to ethics and technology
 - c. **Weekly Short Quiz** – To ensure you are prepared and have read the material, there is a quiz each week on the week's readings.
 - d. **Debate** – As part of a team you will persuasively argue about an ethical dilemma concerning technology in a debate format.
 - e. **Current Events Assignment**– This is an individual assignment that focuses on an interesting and timely topic showing the impact of technology on society. There are several parts to this assignment. They are:
 - i. **Submit Current Event Topic**
 - ii. **Midterm Exam**
 1. **Current Event Report**
 2. **Current Event PowerPoint Presentation**
 3. **Recording of your Current Event Presentation**
 - iii. **Final Exam – Ethical Analysis of your Current Event**
 - f. **Terms of Service Assignment** – Create a person terms of service document.
 - g. **Introduce Yourself** – Short posting to introduce yourself to the class.
 - h. **Surveys**. Some sections will include extra-credit surveys.
7. **Community Service Internship (optional)** – NJIT Career Services can provide you the opportunity to work with a Newark-area non-profit organization using your skills to help that organization achieve its goals. This is a great experience, great service, can open doors for you, and looks great on your resume! Other community service will be accepted with prior approval from the professor.

Required Textbook, Readings & Materials

Textbook (various options)

Michael J. Quinn, Ethics for the Information Age, 7th edition (2016).

- *printed, rental and online versions are available through the NJIT bookstore*

Alternative online version through CourseSmart (\$41);

- [coursesmart.com/9780133744088](https://www.coursesmart.com/9780133744088)

(If you have a hard copy of the fifth edition, it may be “mostly good enough”, but your exams will mostly come from the 6th edition and it has some new material.)

Readings & Materials

All required journal articles will be linked to in the course Moodle and/ or available through the NJIT digital library.

Note: From time to time I may assign additional readings and other materials.

Words of Wisdom

Do not get behind in reading the text and articles! You will regret it!

Suggestions, Questions, Problems and Falling Behind

If you have any problems or feel like you are falling behind, please contact me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to recognize problems as early as possible, so we can work together to keep you progressing. Feel free to email me or visit during office hours if your comment is more private.

I welcome suggestions and questions. I encourage you to post these in the Moodle “Questions and Interesting Links” forum, so we can all share in the discussion.

Grading and other Requirements:

“A” breakers – You must do 2 things to be *eligible* for an A.

- 1. Post all assignments on time. Late assignments will lose a full letter grade for every 2 weeks it is late.**
- 2. Participate in online discussions. Discussions are a major part of the class. Late postings prevent replies from other students. All discussions must be posted before the due date or a minimum of 1 full letter grade will be deducted from the post.**

If you will miss any assignment deadline or session, email me in advance. Otherwise you will be disqualified from an A. (Emailing me does not necessarily earn back the A, but is a required courtesy.)

The percentages for all course work are as follows. These are subject to adjustment. Note that the instructor may decide to grade on a curve.

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage of Total Grade
Introduce Yourself	Jan 25 th	2%
Shaming Ethical Analysis	Feb 24 th	3%
Weekly Discussions		30%
Weekly Discussion Posting	Every Friday Night	
Terms of Service assignment	Mar 8 th	
Weekly Quizzes	Every Sunday Night	5%
Fake News Quiz	Mar 3 rd	5%
Current Event Topic	Oct 5th	N/A
Current Event Midterm		25% of total broken into:
Paper	Feb 16 th	(10%)
Recorded Presentation	TBA	(10%)
Comments on 2 Other's Presentations	TBA	(5%)
Debate		15% of total broken into:
Argument Presentation	Apr 24 th	5%
Argument Recording		5%
Rebuttal Presentation	Apr 28 th	5%
Rebuttal Recording		5%
Current Event Final		
Ethical Analysis	May 15 th	10%

What if I Don't Agree with my Grade?

If you do not agree with your grade, you have 1 week to dispute it after it is posted. Follow the instructions on Moodle.

But What If Moodle Crashes and I Cannot Submit Homework or Complete my Midterm or Final?

What if...? It's simply too bad. Would your boss accept such an excuse? Do NOT wait till the last minute to do your homework or take your exam.

Academic Honesty, Integrity and Cheating

NJIT and Rutgers students are expected to follow published guidelines on academic honesty and integrity. You must acquaint yourself with these policies before submitting any assignments.

njit.edu/academics/integrity.php

Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students at both institutions and may result in failure in the course and probation, or failure in the course and expulsion. I pursue Honor Code violations immediately and aggressively.