

IS 350-454 - Computer, Society & Ethics Online via Moodle

Course Format

This class meets entirely online via Moodle. You will engage in some other activities separately with team members. All are mandatory. You will be responsible for preparing for weekly discussions, attending and participating in all online classes, reading the textbook and all online materials, doing all assignments, and posting assignments on Moodle.

Instructor

Todd C. Will
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(include "IS350" in the email subject)

Office Hours:

- Wednesdays, 5 to 6PM, GITC5100
- Thursday, 6 to 9PM, via Skype (my username is toddapod)
- 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:

- a. Explain beneficial and detrimental ways in which computing affects people, including the primary and secondary effects, and intended and unintended consequences.
- b. Utilize theories of ethical decision-making and professional codes of ethics to analyze difficult situations with computing aspects.
- c. Find and critically evaluate relevant literature pertaining to a situation of concern.
- d. 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, other classroom and online activities, reading, studying the materials, homework and team activities. (This is even more compressed during the summer sections.)

4. **Readings & Online Materials** –Readings and other online materials supplement the lecture slides and the textbook.
5. **Moodle** – Course materials and other information are on Moodle (moodle.njit.edu).
6. **Assignments /Course Work**
 - a. **Library Analysis** – How to use the library and to find good sources.
 - b. **Weekly Short Quiz** – We’ll hold substantial discussion of the week’s topics in your online discussion. To ensure you are prepared and have read the material, there is a quiz on the week’s readings.
 - c. **Debate** – As part of a team you will persuasively argue about an ethical dilemma concerning technology in a debate format.
 - d. **Current Events Presentation** – This is an individual assignment that focuses on an interesting and timely topic showing the impact of technology on society. Each person will present the topic online via Moodle during the term.
 - e. **Interactive Writing Assignment.** Some sections will have two short online writing assignments.
 - f. **Participation.** IS 350 is a discussion-based course, where students especially learn by participating in class discussions and other activities.
 - g. **Surveys.** Some sections will include extra-credit surveys.
7. **Community Service Internship (optional – NOT During Summer)** – 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!

Required Textbook, Readings & Materials

Textbook (various options)

Michael J. Quinn, Ethics for the Information Age, 7th edition (2017).

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

Alternative online version through VitalSource (\$48);

- ([see link on Moodle](#))

(If you have a hard copy of the sixth edition, it may be “mostly good enough”, but your exams will mostly come from the 7th 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 make an appointment to 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 3 things to be *eligible* for an A.

1. Post all assignments **on time**. Late assignments will lose 20% **per day** (*not per class*).
2. Participate in all online discussions.

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 necessary 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.

Deliverables	Percentage
Assignment: Getting Started	2%
Assignment: Library Analysis	10%
Assignment: Debate (group)	13%
Assignment: Current Events Presentation	14%
Weekly Quizzes	15%
Participation / Interactive Writing Assignment	10%
Midterm Report	18%
Final Report	18%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>100%</i>

Grading Policy

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 90 and up• B+ 85 to 89• B 80 to 84	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• C+ 75 to 79• C 70 to 74• D 65 to 69• F less than 65
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Alternative Grading Policy based on a Curve

- A (30%)
- B, B+ (30-40%)
- C, C+ (30%)
- D, F (as necessary)

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. There are many computers on campus available for your use, hence, no excuse.

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.

IS 350 Computer, Society & Ethics Fall 2017 - Schedule

Weekly Activities

- Read the textbook and read/view any other materials during the week.
- Take the weekly quiz by midnight during the week.
- Attend every online session and participate in weekly discussions.
- All major assignments are due at midnight on Sunday.

Schedule: Part 1—History, Theory, and Ethics + NJIT Library Experience

Acquiring the intellectual tools for analyzing the issues in Part 2 of the course.

Date	Modules and Topics	Additional Assignments
Week 1 1/14	Introduction <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Appendix A (textbook) ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> 	Getting Started Activities assigned (due 1/21) Library Research Analysis assigned <i>(Not for Summer)</i> (V1 due 1/28 – V2 due 2/18) <i>(prepare for assignment confirmation)</i> <i>Prepare for Syllabus Confirmation</i>
Week 2 1/21	M1. History of Computing <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 1 (textbook) ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> <u>Activities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Service Presentation 	<i>Getting Started Activities due 1/21</i> Current Events assigned (topic approval due 1/28) (slides due 2/25) <i>(prepare for assignment confirmation)</i> Community Service Extra Credit (due 4/29)

Date	Modules and Topics	Assignments
Week 3 1/28	M2. Ethical Analysis <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements ○ Doing an Ethical Analysis <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 2 (textbook) ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> 	<i>Current Events Topic Approval due 1/28</i> <i>Library Research Analysis V1 due 1/28</i> Read CONFIRM article (posted in Module 3's materials) and be prepared to discuss on Moodle
Week 4 2/4	M3. Professionalism and Codes of Conduct <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 9 ○ ACM Code of Ethics ○ Software Engineering Code of Ethics ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> <u>Activities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Library Assignment Feedback ○ Ethical Analysis Exercises 	ACM Code of Ethics <i>You should learn the "moral imperatives" in bold 'by heart' and understand what each of them means so that you can apply each.</i>

Part 2—Social Issues Caused by the Rise of Computing Technology

Discussing many topics and issues related to the introduction of computing into society. In each module we take up a different issue. Try to apply the ethical theories that we have studied to each issue. Who are the stakeholders and what is at stake? What are the intended and unintended consequences, as well as? Can you infer the secondary and tertiary effects?

Date	Modules and Topics	Assignments
Week 5 2/11	M4. Equity, Gender, Access & the Digital Divide <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Section 10.5 	<i>Current Events slides due 2/25</i> Midterm Report assigned (due 3/11)

	○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i>	
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Date	Modules and Topics	Assignments
Week 6 2/18	M5. Examining the Net <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 3 ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> 	<i>Library Research Analysis V2 due 2/18</i> Debate assigned (slides due 3/18) <i>(prepare for debate confirmation)</i>
Week 7 2/25	M7. Privacy and Civil Liberties <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 5 ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> 	
Week 8 3/4	M8. Computers + Government + Military <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 6 ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> 	<i>Midterm Report due 3/11</i>
Week 9 3/18	Debate week (via Moodle) Each group debates using your PowerPoint presentation. (Details and submission instructions are in the top Section of Moodle.) <u>Activities:</u> Debates	<i>Debate Slides due 3/18</i>
Week 10 3/25	M10. Work, Robotics and Green Computing <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 10 	

	○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i>	
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Date	Modules and Topics	Assignments
Week 11 4/1	Supplemental Activities <u>Activities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Final report exercise ○ Other activities 	Final Project assigned (due 5/6)
Week 12 4/8	M11. Computer Crime & Security <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 7 ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> 	
Week 13 4/15	M12. Professional and Legal Responsibilities, Accountability, Liability, and Risk Management <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 8 ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> 	
Week 14 4/22	M13. Digital Intellectual Property <u>Lecture Slides:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slides + Supplements <u>Readings + Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quinn, Chapter 4 ○ <i>Any others posted on Moodle</i> 	<i>Final Project due 5/6</i> <i>Community Service Extra Credit due 5/6</i> <i>Extra Credit Survey due 5/6</i>