

Common Course Outline
CMSC 175
Ethical Responsibilities in the Computer Age
3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Ethical Responsibilities in the Computer Age

Examines current cultural, social and ethical responsibilities in the Computer Age; asks “What is ethics with respect to Computer Science?” and includes professional codes of conduct from throughout the world, hacking, copyright infringement, whistle blowing, intellectual property, privacy vs. right to know and corporate responsibilities. This course is designed for students in both technical and non-technical programs.

Prerequisite: CMSC 155, or CINS 155, (ENGL 051 or LVE 1), (ESOL 051 or LVE 1), (RDNG 051 or LVR 1)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successfully completing the course students will be able to:

1. understand what ethics means with respect to technology.
2. analyze Codes of Conduct from professional societies from around the world. Included in this objective is ACM (from the USA), CIPS (from Canada), JISA (from Japan), CSSA (from South Africa), SEARCC (regional from Southeast Asia) and EISS-CEPIS (from Europe).
3. analyze current computer related crimes.
4. understand censorship vs. freedom of speech, and discuss commercially available products to restrict website viewing.
5. analyze issues involving the rights of mass mailing (spamming) email users vs. the load on servers and rights of individuals to privacy, and examine recent or pending court cases.
6. understand ADA guidelines with respect to the Internet.
7. understand copyright issues, including how to apply for a copyright, and discuss what can and cannot be copyrighted.
8. understand intellectual property.
9. respect the purpose of Shareware in our society.
10. apply the rules of Netiquette to students' Internet experiences, and discuss the "do's and don'ts" of the Internet pertaining to items such as vulgarity, typing messages in capital letters and posting to news groups.
11. understand the impact of viruses on society.
12. identify corporate responsibilities with respect to software and hardware distribution.
13. analyze workplace issues and whistle blowing.
14. apply "The Ten Commandments of Computer Ethics".
15. discuss Privacy issues and Global issues.

Major Topics

- I. Ethical Issues
 - A. Computer Crimes
 - B. Shareware vs. Freeware

- C. Individuals Right to Privacy
- D. Hacking
 - 1. Mischief
 - 2. Malicious
 - 3. Security
- II. Social Issues
 - A. ADA Guidelines
 - B. Social Rules on the Internet (Netiquette)
- III. Issues in the Workplace
 - A. Whistle-Blowing
 - B. Corporate Security of Websites
 - C. Responsibility and Product Development
- IV. Global Issues in Computing
 - A. International Codes of Conduct
 - B. International Copyright Requirements
 - C. Using a Web Editor
 - D. Converting Existing Files to HTML Format
- V. Current Internet Issues

Course Requirements

Grading: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, will be provided the first week of class, and will include the following:

1. At least one Test, Exam, and/or Quiz: Individual faculty will notify students of the testing procedures to be used.
2. Written Papers: At least two one-page reaction papers on issues discussed during various lectures will be required in a font size of 12
3. Attendance in Chat (or Lecture): Attendance in the weekly lecture or online chat session is mandatory.
4. Substantive Participation in asynchronous online discussions on a weekly basis is required.
5. Comprehensive Final Exam: The course will include a comprehensive final exam, which may include a final project.
6. Final Grades: Grades will be determined by individual faculty members.

Individual faculty members may include additional course objectives, topics, and course requirements beyond the minimum expectations stated in the Common Course Outline.

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in a growth in knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career, and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect students to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending class, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities, and preparing for tests.

We take seriously our responsibility to maintain high-quality programs and will periodically ask you to participate in assessment activities to determine whether our students are attaining the knowledge, attitudes, and skills appropriate to various courses and programs. The assessment activities may take many different forms such as surveys, standardized or faculty-developed tests, discussion groups, or portfolio evaluations. We ask that you take these activities seriously so that we can obtain valid data to use for the continuous improvement of CCBC's courses and programs.

Other Course Information

This course is designed for students in the Computer Science and in the Internet and Multimedia Technology program, as well as for students in non-technical programs. For students taking this class in an online course format, Internet knowledge, an email account and your own Internet Service Provider (ISP) are required.

Date Revised: 09/22/00