COT 4935  Senior Seminar  
Section 003/Spring 2011

Course Description:

Study and discussion regarding the social, legal, and ethical aspects of computing.

Textbook:


References:

6. Others by netsurfing.

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Office hours: M, W: 9:00 am -12:00 noon; other times by appointment

Course syllabus:

While this course deals with social, legal, and ethical issues facing computing professionals, it is loosely structured as far as the specific material to be covered is concerned. Student presentations are a major component of the course, both in terms of content and student effort. The topics chosen for the reports will determine much of the specific topical material of the course.

Course objectives:

1. To promote discussion and understanding of social issues related to computing.
2. To promote awareness of legal issues related to computing.
3. To promote broad understanding of ethical issues related to computing.
4. To demonstrate the ability to do oral presentations of the concepts studied in this course.
5. To demonstrate the ability to do written presentations of the concepts studied in this course.
Prerequisites:

COP 3530 and senior standing.

Student reports:

Each student will be responsible for an individual oral presentation and written report. Each talk should last 20 to 25 minutes, including 5 minutes for questions and discussion. Alternatively, two students may stage a mock debate, each taking the opposite side of some issue. In this format, each student will prepare a 10 to 15 minute presentation of their position. After the two presentations, there will be a 5 minute rebuttal to attack the position of the other speaker. Then there will be 10 minutes for the class to question the debaters. The time limits will be strictly enforced.

In addition to the oral report, a written report of about 10 text pages will be submitted not more than two weeks after the oral report. Images, charts, diagrams, direct quotations, and extra blank lines between sections do not count in calculating the 10-page report. The report must be prepared using a word processor that produces MS Word compatible output files. Reports shall be double spaced with 1.2" left margin and 1" margins on the right, top, and bottom. A proportional font such as Times Roman with font size no larger than 12 points must be used. The final report must be submitted electronically to the following two sites:

http://student.cse.fau.edu/~hwsam/student/index.html
http://www.turnitin.com/

Choice of topics and scheduling:

In general, only one presentation will be permitted on a given topic. Exceptions may be made when two presentations address significantly different issues or present different sides of an issue. The order in which topics are to be presented will be determined by lottery except that volunteers for early presentation will be accepted.

Grading:

Class participation is encouraged. Regular attendance is required. Penalty points will be assessed for each class missed. Additional penalty points may be assessed for participation in class discussions, completion of written assignments, and preparedness for making presentations as assigned. Absence will be excused only for documented circumstances beyond the student's control. There will be a final exam. Your final grade will be calculated primarily based on your oral presentation, which may be peer-evaluated, attendance, written report, and final exam.

TurnItIn:

Reports will be submitted electronically to TurnItIn, a plagiarism detection service. Material in your report that is quoted from or derived from another source must be appropriately identified and referenced with an appropriate citation. Significant failure to follow these guidelines will result in a failing grade for the course and may lead to the filing of an Academic Irregularity report.