Syllabus for <u>Ethics in a Digital World</u>

Course Title and Number

    ISTA 161: Ethics in a Digital World
    Fall 2015, Section 001
    Prerequisites: None

Description of Course

    This course explores the social, legal, and cultural fallout from the exponential explosion in communication, storage, and increasing uses of data and data production. In this class, we emphasize the opposing potentials of information technologies to make knowledge widely available and to distort and restrict our perceptions. Topics include (but are not limited to): eavesdropping and secret communications, privacy, Internet censorship and filtering, cyberwarfare, computer ethics and ethical behavior, copyright protection and peer-to-peer networks, broadcast and telecommunications regulation, including net neutrality, data leakage, and the power and control of search engines.

Locations and Times

    Education, Room 211
    Monday and Wednesday 3:00-4:15

Instructor Information

Instructor: Professor Kay Mathiesen
Email: kmathies at email dot arizona dot edu
Phone: 520-621-5223 [*Note: The professor hates talking on the phone—so please email her (she checks her email more frequently than her phone messages anyway). If you need to talk, she prefers in person meetings or video calls.*]
Office: School of Information, 1515 East First Street, Room 14
Office Hours:

In person office hours are **Monday 1:00-2:30**. Students are welcome to drop by during that time. *Online* office hours are **Tuesday 4:00-5:30.** Online office hours will be held within d2l using Adobe Connect. You will be provided with a link to access the videoconference space. You may sign in any time during online office hours and I will be available to chat.

    If you cannot make those times, the professor is also available most days by appointment. Videoconference appointments are also available via Adobe Connect. Email the professor to schedule an in person or videoconference appointment.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Michael Jenkins
Email: jenkinsmw at email dot arizona dot edu
Office: School of Information, 1515 East First Street, Room 6
Office Hours: Wednesday 12-2 and by appointment.

Online Communication Policy

If you have any general questions (e.g., not about your specific personal situation) about the course syllabus, policies, logistics, due dates, etc., please post them to the **Questions about Course Logistics** discussion area in d2l. If you have any general questions about the definitions, concepts, facts, you encounter in the course readings, lectures, videos, quizzes, etc., please post them to the **Questions about Course Content** discussion area in d2l. Posts should be edited for spelling, grammar, and clarity. Either the TA or Professor will respond within 24 hours on weekdays.

If you have a question related to your own specific situation—e.g., absence due to illness, need for an accommodation, request for an appointment—you may email either the TA or the professor. The professor typically reads and responds to student emails 11:30-2:30 on Monday, 1-2:30 on Wednesday, and 2-6 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. (The professor does not respond to email over the weekend.) Typically response time is not more than 24 hours on weekdays. When emailing the professor or GTA include your name, the course you are enrolled in, and a clear explanation of your question. Emails should be edited for spelling, grammar, and clarity.

> Before emailing a question or request to the professor or the TA please read, "Re: Your Recent Email to your Professor" (available from https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay) and follow its sound advice.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Explain the major moral theories and principles as they apply to digital ethics.
2. Construct cogent, logical arguments to defend moral judgments.
3. Analyze and explain the importance of the concept of privacy; define intellectual property; describe the limits to free expression; articulate the philosophical notion of rights.
4. Recognize instances of plausible ethical concern in digital information collection, processing, and dissemination
5. Identify an instance of ethical concern as being a case involving privacy, intellectual property rights, free expression, professional obligation, and/or social consequences.
6. Know the specific challenges faced by creators and users of computers in digital age.
7. Understand the history of the development of new digital technologies and their impact on individuals and society.

Topics

- Introduction
- Digital Distraction—Autonomy vs. Community?
- The Evolution of Information Technology
- Ethical Theories
- Networked Communications
- Intellectual Property
- Information Privacy

- Privacy and the Government
- Computer and Network Security
- Computer Reliability
- Professional Ethics
- Work and Wealth in the Digital Age

Course Format and Teaching Methods

This course will consist of two weekly lectures with in-class activities and discussions. Some course materials will be made available via d2l and occasionally students may be asked to take a quiz or submit an assignment to the d2l drop-box. The in-class exams will be taken via the d2l quiz tool on your own laptop.

Required Texts

- Required Textbook: *Ethics for the Information Age*, Michael J. Quinn, Addison-Wesley Publishers, Sixth Edition.
- Other readings will be made available in the "Content" area of d2l.

Grading Policy

All grades will be assigned as follows: (Note that final grades will not be rounded up, e.g. a 89.9 is a B.)

100-90% = A
89-80% = B
79-70% = C
69-60% = D
59-0% = E

A note about letter grades

It is often assumed that a "C" is a bad grade. This is not true. "C" means "satisfactory," which means you met the expectations I set for the assignment. In other words, "C" means that you have completed the assignment correctly.

"B" is "good"—that means that you have done more than just completed the assignment correctly, you have done so to a high standard.

"A" is "excellent"—this means that your work is truly outstanding. It goes much beyond what was required by the assignment and all elements of the assignment are excellently executed.

So, you can translate letter grades as follows.

A = Truly Outstanding
B = Exceeds Expectations
C = Meets Expectations
D = Needs Improvement
E = Fails to Meet Expectations

Requests for incompletes (I) and withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with university policies which are available at http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/grade.htm#I and http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/grade.htm#W respectively.

Graded Components/Assignments

Note: The assigned readings and exam dates are listed in the course schedule, which will be handed out on the syllabus the first day of class, any further weekly smorgasbord assignments will be available in the d2l content area. There may be no other indication that work is due. So, be sure to consult the course schedule and d2l frequently so that you don't miss an assignment.

Smorgasbord Assignments = 100 points total
2 Semester Exams = 100 points each
Final Exam = 150 points

Total Points Possible = 450 points

Smorgasbord Assignments: These assignments may include quizzes in d2l or pop-quizzes in class, in class discussion or writing assignments, short writing assignments, etc. Note that these assignments are not currently listed on the Syllabus. In some cases these assignments will be announced a week ahead of time—e.g., short writing assignments or d2l quizzes. In other cases there will be "pop" assignments, e.g., in class quizzes, discussion, or writing assignments. Smorgasbord assignments cannot be made up. However, there will be three bonus smorgasbord assignments that you can use to make up for missed assignments. (Note, the highest score you can get for the smorgasbord assignments in 100. You may not use the bonus assignments as extra credit.)

>   **Assignment Format**: Out of class assignments should be submitted to the designated drop-box within d2l. Written assignments should be turned in as .docx, .rtf, or .pdf files.

Exams: Exams will be in class and will include multiple choice and short answer. Exams will be taken on your laptop using the d2l quiz tool. The laptop must have a working version of the Respoundus Lockdown Browser. [Instructions for how to download the Respondus browser will be available in d2l.] Students who fail to bring a fully charged laptop on which to take the quiz will not be allowed to make up the exam. (If you do not have a laptop on which to take the exam, please contact the professor prior to the exam and she will arrange an accommodation for you.) Exams may not be taken early and can only be made up with evidence of an excused absence (see below). Exams must be made up within one week of the original date. Exams may not be retaken.

As a rule graded exams will not be returned. The professor will go over the answers to the exam the next class meeting. If students wish to go over what they got wrong on the exam, they can make an appointment with the TA to do so.

Grades will be posted in d2l.

There will be no extra-credit assignments.

Grade Disputes

Disputes about grades on any assignment must be filed within one week of receiving the grade. After that point the grade will not be changed for any reason. Contact the GTA with any questions you have about your grade.

Honors Credit

Students wishing to contract this course for Honors Credit should email the professor to set up an appointment to discuss the terms of the contact and to sign the Honors Course Contract Request Form. The form is available at http://www.honors.arizona.edu/documents/students/ContractRequestFrom.pdf.

Late Work Policy

Late work will only be accepted when the student has been explicitly been given permission to turn in the work late by the professor. As a rule work will not be accepted late except in case of documented emergency or illness. You may petition the professor in writing for an exception if you feel you have a compelling reason for turning work in late. Even when students are allowed to turn in work late it may be docked up to one-half grade per day.

Adding the Course Late

Students who add the course late may turn in missed work within one week of adding. This work will count for attendance credit only. In other words, late work will count toward erasing absences, but will not count toward the smorgasbord assignment grade. There are 3 bonus smorgasbord assignments, so students can replace any missed assignments with one or more of the bonus assignments.

Attendance Policy

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance and Administrative Drops is available at: http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/classatten.htm

The UA policy regarding absences on and accommodation of religious holidays is available at http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/accommodation-religious-observance-and-practice.

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean designee) will be honored. See:

Participating in course and attending lectures and other course events are vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is required at all lectures. While attendance will not be taken, there will frequently be in-class assignments that cannot be made up without a documented excuse. In many cases these assignments will not be announced ahead of time. Students who miss class due to illness or emergency are required to bring documentation from their healthcare provider or other relevant, professional third parties. Failure to submit third-party documentation will result in a zero for any in-class assignment missed.

Classroom Behavior

To foster a positive learning environment, students may not text, chat, make phone calls, play games, read the newspaper or surf the web during lecture and discussion. If students must be available via the cellphone due to family or other emergency, please inform the professor before class and leave the classroom to use your phone. Students are asked to refrain from disruptive conversations with people sitting around them during lecture. Students observed engaging in disruptive activity will be asked to cease this behavior by the professor or TA. Students who continue to disrupt the class will be asked to leave lecture or discussion and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

The use of personal electronics such as laptops, iPads, cellphones, or other such mobile devices is distracting to the other students and the instructor. Their use can degrade the learning environment. Also, studies have shown that taking hand-written notes improves student learning. (If you are unable to take hand written notes, please let the professor know and she will arrange a note-taker for you.) Therefore, students are not permitted to use these devices during the class period. To ensure compliance, all devices must be put completely away (e.g., no cell phones on the desk) by 3:00 p.m. when the class begins.

If students abide by the no devices policy and put away all devices during class time, the professor will try to end the class 5-10 minutes early.

The GTA will be monitoring the classroom to ensure that all students are abiding by the no devices policy. Students observed with devices out will be asked to put them away. The GTA has the authority to ask students who continue to have devices out during class to leave the lecture. Students who have been asked to leave must make an appointment to discuss the issue with the professor before returning to class. Any work missed due to being asked to leave cannot be made up. Continued violation of the no devices policy may result on the student's behavior being reported to the Dean of Students.

The Arizona Board of Regents' Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308, prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one's self. See: http://policy.arizona.edu/threatening-behavior-students.

Notification of Objectionable Materials

As issues arise in the news, we may view or discuss some content that may be deemed offensive by some students, but that are deemed important for the learning process.

Students are not excused from interacting with such materials, but they are certainly encouraged to express well-formed opinions that express those objections and their reasons for them.

Accessibility and Accommodations

It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on Disability Resources and reasonable accommodations, please visit http://drc.arizona.edu/.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

Student Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity. Students who violate this policy will receive a 0 the assignment and will be reported to the Dean of Students.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism available at: http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA email to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student email addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

Additional Resources for Students
UA Non-discrimination and Anti-harassment policy:
http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy
UA Academic policies and procedures are available at:
http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/aaindex.html
Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at:
http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance

Confidentiality of Student Records
See http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm

Subject to Change Statement
      Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Course Schedule: Section numbers refer to the Quinn text unless otherwise stated. All reading and self-review assignments should be completed before class. Please familiarize yourself with the course schedule as the professor may not always remind you of what is due when.

Note that assignments, such as short writing assignments, discussion assignments, or quizzes will be added to the schedule as we go along. You will be able to find these in the d2l content section listed for each week. So, be sure to check d2l weekly.

      * **Self-Review**: I ask you to review the chapter for yourself by answering the questions once you finish doing the assigned reading and re-reading the text if you don't know the answers. Feel free to ask me any of the questions in class, if you are still unsure of the correct answer. Note that pop quiz questions and exam questions will be based partly on these review questions (there may also be questions over material covered in lecture and other material covered in the readings).

Week	Day	Topic	Assignment
Week 1 (Aug. 24-30)	Monday	Introduction to Course and Discussion of Digital Distraction.	Please read the syllabus before coming to class. Bring any questions you have. Also, be prepared to discuss the following: New Yorker Outloud Podcast Rothman Article Turkle Video All these materials are available in d2l Content Area under "First Week."
	Wednesday	The Evolution of Information Technology	Read sections 1.1-1.3.6 Self-Review* Q's 1-19 Prepare Discussion Q #39
Week 2 (Aug. 31-Sept. 6)	Monday	The Evolution of Information Technology, cont.	1.3.7-Summary Self Review (SR) Q's 20-34
	Wednesday	Introduction to Ethics: Cases, Subjectivism, and Relativism	2.1-2.3.2 SR Q's 1-8
Week 3	Monday—		

(Sept. 7-13)	**No Class**		
	Wednesday	Ethics: Divine Command, Ethical Egoism, Kantianism, and Rule Utilitarianism,	2.4-2.7.4 SR Q's 9, 10, 13-15
Week 4 (Sept.14-20)	Monday	Ethics: Act Utilitarianism, Social Contract Theory, and Virtue Ethics	2.8-2.10.4 SR Q's 16-19
	Wednesday	Alternative Ethical Theories—Buddhism and Ethic of Care Comparing Ethical Theories	2.10-Summary SR Q's 21-28
Week 5 (Sept 21-27)	Monday	Exam Review	SR Q's (Chapter 2) 29-33
	Wednesday	Exam #1	Bring your laptop to class with Respondus lockdown loaded. [Be sure your device is fully charged.]
Week 6 (Sept. 28-Oct. 4)		Networked Communications	3.1-3.4.4 SR Q's 1-7
		Networked Communications	3.5-3.7.4 SR Q's 8-13
Week 7 (Oct. 5-11)		Networked Communications	3.8-Summary SR Qs 14-18
		Intellectual Property	4.1-4.4.6 SR Qs 1-7
Week 8 (Oct. 12-18)		Intellectual Property	4.5-4.6.9 SR Qs 8-14
		Intellectual Property	4.7-Summary SR Q's 15-19
Week 9 (Oct. 19-25)		Information Privacy	5.1-5.3 SR Qs 1-8
		Information Privacy	5.3.1-Summary SR Q's 9-23

Week 10 (Oct. 26-Nov. 1)		Privacy and the Government	6.1-6.6.6 SR Qs 1-23
		Privacy and the Government	6.7-Summary SR Qs 24-41
Week 11 (Nov. 2-8)		Exam Review	
		Exam #2	Bring your laptop to class with Respondus lockdown loaded. [Be sure your device is fully charged.]
Week 12 (Nov. 9-15)		Computer and Network Security	7.1-7.3.12 SR Qs 1-7
		Computer and Network Security	7.4-Summary SR Qs 8-13
Week 13 (Nov. 16-22)		Computer Reliability	8.1-8.5.6 SR Qs 1-10
		Computer Reliability	8.6-Summary SR Qs 11-19
Week 14 (Nov. 23-29)		Professional Ethics	9.1-9.5.4 SR Qs 1-6
	Wednesday —**No Class**	Thanksgiving	
Week 15 (Nov. 30-Dec. 6)		Professional Ethics	9.6-Summary SR Qs 7-8
		Work and Wealth	10-10.3.5 SR Qs 1-6
Week 16 (Nov. 7-9)		Work and Wealth	10.4-Summary SR Qs 7-9
		Final Exam Review	

Final Exam: Wednesday, 12/16/2015, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. Bring your laptop or tablet to class with Respondus lockdown loaded. [Be sure your device is fully charged.]

Final Exam Regulations, http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/schedule101/exams/examrules.htm, Final Exam Schedule, http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/schedules/finals.htm