

CS 105: Computer Ethics and Society

Fred Geldon

This is a **10-week** course, with one skipped week, and the final exam will be in class on the 12th week.

Section	Day	Time	Location	Class Dates	Final Exam
004	Wed	1:30- 2:45pm	Robinson A247	8/30 - 11/8 (Note: No class on 11/25)	11/15
007	Wed	3:00- 4:15pm	Robinson B124	8/31 - 11/8 (Note: No class on 11/25)	11/15

Instructor: Prof. Fred Geldon Email: fgeldon@gmu.edu Phone: (301) 424-4554
Office hours: (Before/after class, or by appointment (via email))

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: Alexander Herrick Email: aherrick@gmu.edu

Contact – We strongly encourage you to contact the instructor or TA if you are experiencing difficulty with the course. We are here to help you learn.

For all e-mail communications, include the course and section number in your e-mail subject line to avoid being flagged as trash. For example: Subject: CS 105 Section 004 Question about Kantianism

Textbook: Quinn, Michael J., "Ethics for the Information Age" 7th Ed., Addison-Wesley, 2013. The textbook is required and students are expected to keep up with readings. Students may use the 6th edition, but will have to refer to the 7th edition from time to time for certain added material (which will be identified).

Web: Blackboard at <http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>. Look for CS 105 and your section number (which will be combined with other sections under your professor). All additional materials (readings, slides, announcements) will be available through the web site.

Course Description

Legal, social, and ethical issues surrounding use of computers and the internet. The course will stress ethical decision-making as well as legal and social responsibility in connection with technology-related concerns. Issues such as security, crime, privacy and intellectual property will be examined in the context of computer use. Students may be requested to conduct research on the internet in any of these areas and/or learn to use practical technological tools related to privacy and security.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will understand many of the key ethical, legal and social issues related to information technology and how to interpret and comply with ethical principles, laws, regulations and institutional policies.
2. Students will understand the essential issues related to information security, how to take precautions and use techniques and tools to defend against computer crimes.

Prerequisites: None

General Education: This course has been approved to satisfy the GMU General Education requirement for one credit of IT Ethics.

Special Accommodations: Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations must work through the Office of Disability Services at (703) 993-2474.

Course Work

This is a discussion-based course. You are expected to attend all course meetings and participate in conversations about course material as well as in-class activities relevant to the course. To facilitate this, assigned readings are to be done before class.

There are two major writing assignments to be done outside of class, which comprise a substantial portion of the overall grade. Additional work such as outside research, group presentations, or contributing to discussion board topics may be assigned.

This class relies strongly on class participation. Therefore, it is important that you attend class on a regular basis. While you are welcome to attend an alternate lecture session if you miss your own, please note that you may not assume instructors in different sections will present the same materials. Accordingly, unless you obtain advance approval from your instructor, you may not receive credit for class participation or other in-class activities when attending a section other than your own.

Grading and Evaluation:

Grading will be based on two major assignments, in-class quizzes, class participation (incl. Blackboard postings), and the final exam. These are weighted as follows:

2 Out-of-class assignments	30%
In-class quizzes (usually not announced)	20%
Final Exam	30%
Class Participation (including attendance, preparation, in-class activities, and weekly postings on Blackboard)	20%

Policies

Unless otherwise specified, all papers and other written assignments are to be *individual* efforts. Individual assignments are to be submitted to Blackboard through the Assignments tab. (Do NOT post assignments on the Discussion boards!) Certain portions of group assignments may require individual efforts as well. Be careful to follow instructions regarding acceptable group efforts. Plagiarism is governed by the GMU Honor Code and will not be tolerated. Instances of cheating and/or plagiarism will be referred to the Honor Committee.

Absences and Participation Credit – Absences from class for health or emergency reasons are excusable as long as some proof of the situation is provided. Participation and quizzes missed due to excusable reasons may be made up on a case-by-case basis according to criteria dictated by the professor. Make-up work must be discussed with the professor within 10 days of missing the class. After that period, participation and quiz credit cannot be made up.

Late Work - It is the sole discretion of the instructor whether to accept late work. If accepted, late work typically will be penalized 5-10% per day. Pay attention to deadlines!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: None of the information presented in this course should be considered specific legal advice. Each situation is unique and requires individual attention. Students with individual legal concerns should not rely on information obtained in this course in making any legal decisions. Should you have a problem or concern requiring legal attention, you should seek specific advice from an attorney of your choosing.

Schedule

The approximate schedule of topics and due dates is listed here. Check the web schedule for the most up-to-date version. Readings from "Quinn" refer to the required course text and give the section numbers to read. Sections marked "Skim" can be briefly scanned. Sections marked "Interview" refer to end of chapter interviews to read.

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading	Homework Due
Week 1	8/30	Introduction: Ethics & Computers		Blackboard posting is due each week by start of next week's class.
Week 2	9/6	Philosophical Ethics	Quinn 1.1, 1.5, Skim 1.2-4, Quinn 2 All, Ch 2 Interview: David Moor	
Week 3	9/13	Philosophical and Professional Ethics	Quinn 9 All, Appendix A Denning Statement on Academic Integrity: http://cs.gmu.edu/resources/honor-code/statement-on-academic-integrity/ CS Honor Code: http://cs.gmu.edu/resources/honor-code/	
Week 4	9/20	Professional Ethics/ Plagiarism/ Accountability	Quinn 8.1-8.5. Focus on 8.5	
Week 5	9/27	Accountability/ Computer Crime	Quinn Ch. 7 All On-line readings (TBA) Optional: Cybersecurity as a Profession	HW1 Ethical HW1: Theories, Due: Sat. 9/23 by 11:59 p.m.
Week 6	10/4	Computer Security	Quinn, 3.8, 3.9 (including 3.8.2, 3.8.3, 3.8.7, and 3.9.1 in 7 th)	

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading	Homework Due
			<p>edition)</p> <p>Ch 7 Interview: Matt Bishop</p> <p>Facebook hacked (medium)</p> <p>Matt Honan hacked (long)</p> <p>GMU Password Policy (short)</p> <p>Traditional method of picking hard passwords (short)</p> <p>Picking password that's easy to remember and hard to crack (awesome)</p> <p>Avoiding Phishing (medium)</p>	
Week 7	10/11	Information Privacy and Social Networking	Quinn 5 All (including 5.3.7. and 5.4.5 in 7 th edition)	
Week 8	10/18	Privacy and the Government	Quinn 6 All (including 6.3.6, 6.6.5, and 6.8.5 in 7 th edition)	
Week 9	10/25	NO CLASS!!!!		
Week 10	11/1	Intellectual Property	Quinn 4.1-4.4 (including 4.3.5, 4.4.5, and 4.4.6 in 7 th edition) , 4.8	HW2: Security/ Privacy, Due: Sat. 10/21 by 11:59 p.m.
Week 11	11/8	Workplace Issues/ Wrap-up and Review	Quinn 10 All (including 10.3.3 and 10.5.6 in 7 th edition), especially 10.5.6 (Net neutrality)	
Week 12	11/15	Final Exam, normal class time and location	Comprehensive: All previous material is fair game.	