

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Department of Computer Science
Course Description – Fall Semester, 2005
CS 105 Computer Ethics and Society, 1 unit

Section 007 Monday 4:30-5:45 pm; Innovation Hall 207. Class Dates: **8/29** – 11/07, Final Exam: 11/14/05

NOTES: NO CLASSES on Labor Day (Sept 5) or Columbus Day (Oct 10).
RESCHEDULED CLASS Tue Oct 11

***** Note: Because this course meets for less than the full semester, it has special, *early* add and drop deadlines. *****
***** Refer to the Fall 2005 Academic Calendar at <http://registrar.gmu.edu/acadcal05f.html> *****

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REQUIRED TEXT: Edgar, Stacey L., *Morality and Machines*, Second Edition (Jones and Bartlett 2003).

PREREQUISITE: Completion of at least 12 credit hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Legal, social, and ethical issues surrounding software development and computer use. Issues such as professional ethics, liability, intellectual property rights, privacy, security, and crime will be examined in the context of computer use. Students will read, write, research and discuss these topics. Students are expected to be able to do research on the Internet.

GRADING POLICY

1. CS105/ALL Homework (30%)
2. In-class assignments, class participation, CS105/007 & CS104/YOU Deep Thought essays, etc. (35%)
3. Final Exam (35%) <As noted above, this will take place in the 11th class week, during the normal class period.>

Communication:

All students will have accounts on WebCT and are responsible for checking it regularly and reading any messages or announcements from instructors, your TA or UPAs. The WebCT link is <http://webct41.gmu.edu>

Homework Assignments: These will be posted on the class website and must be submitted via email to the instructor for your section. Acceptable submission formats include PDF, plain text, StarOffice, OpenOffice, HTML; MS Word format is okay but I will have to convert to one of the previous formats...better **you** do the conversion.

Class Participation: This class relies heavily on class participation. Plan to attend **all** classes prepared to discuss **reading** and **homework** assignments and participate in class exercises.

**** All assignments, including the homeworks, are to be individual efforts. Plagiarism is governed by the GMU Honor Code and will not be tolerated. Failure to use proper citations and quotations will be considered plagiarism. See the class website and/or your instructor for guidance. Instances of cheating will be referred to the Honor Committee. ****

Read and adhere to the [Academic Policies and Honor Code](http://cs.gmu.edu/students/hnr_cds.html) at http://cs.gmu.edu/students/hnr_cds.html

Read and adhere to the [Responsible Use of Computing](http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/policy/administrative/60.html) policy at <http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/policy/administrative/60.html>

IMPORTANT NOTICE: None of the information presented in this course should be considered legal advice, nor should it be relied upon in making legal decisions. Each situation is unique and requires individual attention. Should you have a problem or concern requiring legal attention, you should seek specific advice from an attorney of your choosing.

There are three categories of assignments in this class:

- CS105/ALL: Assignments common to ALL CS105 sections (**all** CS105 students)
- CS105/007: Assignments unique to CS105/007 (all CS105/**007** students)
- CS105/YOU: Assignment selected by **individual** student (with instructor approval)

Grading guidelines:

Subjective: assignments and participation:

- A: consistently **above and beyond** course/assignment requirements
- B: **meets and occasionally exceeds** course/assignment requirements
- C: **minimally** meets course/assignment requirements
- F: **fails** to meet minimal course/assignment requirements

Objective:

- A : 94-100%
 - A-: 88-93%
 - B+: 83-87%
 - B : 78-82%
 - C : 65-77%
 - F : 0-64%
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CLASS SCHEDULE (Under Construction)

Class Week	Date	Discussion Topics	Reading & Assignments, be prepared to discuss
Week 1	08/29/05	** ERROR ON PATRIOTWEB...CLASS STARTS 8/29 **	
Week 2	09/05/05	** HOLIDAY, NO CLASS **	
Week 3	09/12/05	Introductions, Syllabus, GMU codes, General Ethics Discussion	Due 9/18: Read M&M Ch 1-3; pg 383-386; 485-496; Assignment: CS105/007: DTE#1
Week 4	09/19/05	Codes of Ethics (IEEE, ACM, others), CPSR	Due 9/26: Read: M&M 122-149; Assignment: CS105/ALL: HW#1
Week 5	09/26/05	Intellectual Property issues, DMCA Patents, copyrights, Trademarks, Trade Secrets	Due 10/02: Read TBD; Assignment: TBD
Week 6	10/03/05	Crypto issues. What it is, backdoors, unbreakable code implications, ...	Due 10/11: Read: M&M Ch 5-6; Assignment: CS105/ALL: HW#2
Week 7	TUESDAY 10/11/05	Hacking, Viruses, Phishing, etc	Due 10/17: Read: TBD; Assignment: TBD
Week 8	10/17/05	Open Source Software, GNU, FSF, GPL	Due 10/24: Read: TBD; Assignment: TBD
Week 9	10/24/05	Legal cases: DeCSS. Lynn/Cisco, SCO/IBM	Due 10/31: Read M&M 387-391; Assignment: CS105/ALL: HW#3
Week 10	10/31/05	Bill Joy: Wired Magazine Essay http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy.html	Due 11/07: Read M&M Ch 12; Assignment: TBD
Week 11	11/07/05	The Future: AI issues, CWSWWIWD?	Due 11/13: Assignment: TBD
Week 12	11/14/05	** FINAL EXAM **	

Assignments:

DTE's are "Deep Thought Essays", usually 1-2 pages (single space, 12pt), which **explore your thoughts** on classroom discussion topics. They provide **evidence** for **evaluating your understanding** of the course topics.

CS105/007: DTE#1: Due **before** 9/18/05: After reading M&M Ch 1-3, write a description of the origins of **your** ethical background. Do you believe that **some** or **all** of your ethics are **personal** or **universal**?

CS105/ALL: HW#1,2,3: see WebCT for CS105

CS105/ALL-HW1 due by 9/26

CS105/ALL-HW2 due by 10/11

CS105/ALL-HW3 due by 10/31

Discussion assignment: **participate** in CS105/007 online discussion topics on **WebCT** (no specific due date)