Professional, Ethical, and Legal Issues for Software Engineers
College of Engineering and Computer Science
California State University, Fullerton

Course Outline

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING GOALS

We are living in a period of human history known as the Information Age. Technology advancement has undoubtedly enhanced our way of life on many levels and transformed our very existence. Along with these tremendous benefits, however, there are significant social and ethical concerns. In this course, we will examine and discuss controversial social and ethical issues related to information technology such as networking and network security, intellectual property, information privacy, privacy and the government, computer reliability, professional ethics for software engineers, and the workplace and how it has and will continue to change. By evaluating these intricate and multifaceted issues, our hope is to develop an appreciation for how to approach new technology and the changes it brings. By understanding the complex relationships between the short-term benefits and long-term effects on our lives and lives of future generations, we can help guide the development and implementation of these new technologies in a thoughtful and ethical manner.

PREREQUISITE

CPSC 362 *Foundations of Software Engineering* or equivalent work experience

INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL D. FALKOW, PMP (BIO ATTACHED)

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Office:	**TBD**
Office Phone:	None—*Use Cell Phone*
Cell Phone:	**(714) 875-1875 ← Best Number to Reach Me! I prefer text messages.**
E-mail:	mdfalkow@fullerton.edu
Office Hours:	Tentatively, Thursday evenings after class and other times by appointment if necessary. The best way to reach me is through e-mail, as I check it very frequently every day. You can also text me on my cell phone during working hours. Of course, be sure to let me know who you are when you send me a text!

CLASS INFORMATION

Room:	**E-NE042**
Meeting Time:	Thursdays: 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. (with a short break at 8:30 p.m.) August 29th through December 19th except November 28th (Fall Recess)

Textbook: *Ethics for the Information Age*, 7th Edition, Michael J. Quinn, Addison Wesley. ISBN: 9780134296548

Course Materials: I may introduce additional reading assignments or online videos throughout the course. Typically, I will provide them via hyperlink, a PDF file, or a citation you can use in order to find the item electronically in our library. As a student, I believe you should not have to pay for articles.
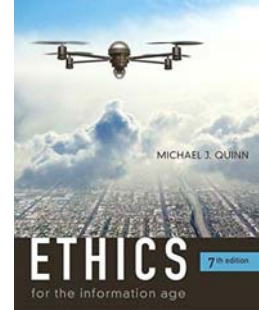
Lecture Materials: PowerPoint Slides, Handouts, etc., to be provided electronically after class.

Holidays: Reference the CSUF Academic Calendar for **Fall 2019** for a complete list of days when the campus will be closed. http://apps.fullerton.edu/AcademicCalendar/

CLASS PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE, AND CONDUCT

This is graduate-level course. As such, attendance and participation are required and will be graded (see *Grading Policy* below).

This is an institution of higher learning, and I assume that you will ask questions when you do not understand something. It is highly likely that a classmate has the same question or concern. I will never reprimand you for asking a question or sharing a thought, and I expect that each of you will extend this same courtesy to your peers.

It is important, however, that you recognize the limited class time we have each week and refrain from dominating the discussions, 'hogging the floor,' or veering the direction of a lecture or discussion into unintended territory.

I ask that you respect my role as the instructor and graciously accept any request to 1) save a question until after class or my office hours, 2) hold a thought for the future, as I may intend to cover that point or issue in a subsequent discussion, or 3) allow me to get us back on track because of time constraints.

A few more "rules" to keep in mind:

1. Newspapers, magazines, and non-course-related books should be closed and put aside when class begins.

2. If you need to leave class early, please sit near the door so you do not disturb the class upon exit.

3. Having multiple conversations makes it difficult for people to pay attention. Please save these for after class or the break.

4. Please put your phones on silent mode before class begins. If you forget, I reserve the right to answer the call on your behalf! Multiple violations may result in me taking temporary custody of your phone. If you have an urgent need to text someone or take a call during class, please gracefully step out and conduct your business.

5. I realize that some of you may be commuting to/from campus, and traffic and parking can be very unpredictable. I will attempt to contact the department if I am likely to be more than 15 minutes late to class. Unless you get an e-mail from me indicating that class has been cancelled or there is a computer science department-issued sign posted on the door, I expect you to be here. Please make every effort to be on time, but if you must come in late, please do so quietly.

6. Please do not ask, "Will we get out early?" Sometimes we will, and sometimes we won't. Let it be a surprise! ☺

7. Please do not ask, "Is there extra credit?" There is no extra credit in my classes. Also, please do not ask me for extra points because you are borderline, facing academic probation, etc. You have ample opportunity to earn as many points in the course as possible. I follow general rounding policies as far as grades are concerned (see *Grading Policy* below).

8. You may use a laptop as long as it is used appropriately (e.g., taking notes, etc.). If you are caught once on YouTube, Facebook, doing homework, etc., you will be barred from bringing the laptop back to class. In addition, you may be expected to serve as a "Classroom Googler," which means that, on occasion, I may ask you to look up some fact, name, date, etc., for the benefit of the class.

CLASS SCHEDULE, REQUIREMENTS, AND GRADING POLICY

This is a graduate-level, seminar-style course. As such, attendance and participation are required in order to achieve a passing grade.

Week	Date of Class	Tentative Lecture and Activity Schedule
Week 1	August 29, 2019	Course Introduction, Overview, and Housekeeping
Week 2	September 5, 2019	Chapter 2—Introduction to Ethics
Week 3	September 12, 2019	Discuss Term Paper Criteria
Week 4	September 19, 2019	
Week 5	September 26, 2019	Chapter 9—Professional Ethics
Week 6	October 3, 2019	Chapter 4—Intellectual Property
Week 7	October 10, 2019	
Week 8	October 17, 2019	Chapter 5—Information Privacy
Week 9	October 24, 2019	Midterm Exam (Chapters 2, 9, 4, & 5)
Week 10	October 31, 2019	Chapter 6—Privacy and the Government
Week 11	November 7, 2019	Chapter 3—Network Communications
	November 10, 2019	Term Paper Due
Week 12	November 14, 2019	Chapter 7—Computer and Network Security
Week 13	November 21, 2019	Chapter 8—Computer Reliability
Week 14	November 28, 2019	No Class—Fall Recess
Week 15	December 5, 2019	Chapter 10—Work and Wealth
Week 16	December 12, 2019	Course Review
Week 17	December 19, 2019	Final Exam: ** *7:00 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.* **

Please keep in mind that we only meet once per week, so if you miss one class, you are effectively missing a week's worth of instruction.

Evaluation Categories	Weighted Value
Attendance, Class Participation, and Assignments	15%
Term Paper	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Total	100%

Attendance, Class Participation, and Assignments (15% of Course Grade)

As a graduate-level, seminar-style course, I fully expect the instructor's lecture material coupled with the readings and any outside research will easily stimulate active class discussions. Since we only meet once per week, your consistent class attendance is highly important to the success of the class. As such, there will be a sign-in sheet passed around at the beginning of class. I will track your attendance throughout the course, and missing classes in whole or in part will negatively affect your grade for this evaluation category. The weighted value of this evaluation category will include attendance, active participation, small assignments, and the possibility of quizzes. I will track all of these.

Term Paper (25% of Course Grade)

There will be one formal term paper due after Week 11 (on Sunday, November 10, 2019) that accounts for 25% of your course grade. I will cover in detail an outline of the content, length, format, and submission requirements around Week 4 (September 19, 2019). Late papers will be accepted up until 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time) November 15, 2019; however, a daily penalty of 10 points will be assessed (e.g., the highest grade a paper submitted on November 15, 2019, would be a 50%).

Under no circumstances will I accept a term paper after November 15, 2019.

Examinations (Midterm—25% and Final Exam [*slightly* cumulative]—35% of Course Grade)

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam. Both exams will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer/essay-style questions. The midterm exam is scheduled for Week 9 (October 24, 2019), and the final exam is scheduled during Final Exam Week (Week 17—December 19, 2019). **Please note that the time of the final is 7:00 p.m.**

Make-up Policy

If you are absent from class the day of the midterm examination (October 24, 2019) **and have a valid excuse such as a serious illness, death in the family, or other equally compelling reason (you should notify me prior to class if possible)**, the weight of the final exam will be increased by the weight of the midterm exam (e.g., the final exam would have a weighted value of 60% of your course grade). **All excuses are subject to verification and validation, and my decision whether or not to accept your excuse is final.**

Without a valid excuse, you will receive a score of zero for the midterm exam, and the weighted value of the final exam will remain unchanged. If you are absent from the final exam, it will be treated as an Unauthorized Withdrawal (WU), which becomes an F unless you take action to request an Incomplete.

Grading Policy

The following illustrates how letter grades equate to percentage-based scores where >= indicates the range minimum:

A+	>= 97%		B+	>= 87%		C+	>= 77%		D+	>= 67%		F	< 59.5%
A	>= 93%		B	>= 83%		C	>= 73%		D	>= 63%			
A-	>= 90%		B-	>= 80%		C-	>= 70%		D-	>= 60%			

When calculating your letter grade, I will **round** fractional grade calculations at the tenths position (e.g., an 86.5% will become an 87.0 or B+).

Grading Exceptions (PLEASE READ!)

Too often I am approached at the end of the term by students telling me how desperate they are to get a passing grade because their scholarship is in jeopardy, they are on academic probation, or perhaps they are trying to graduate. In these cases, there is nothing that can be done. If this class is important to you and there is a lot riding on your grade, the burden is on you to work hard, come get help when necessary, attend class, complete all the assignments, and do well on the exams. **Your obligation begins on day one.** Please note that there is one syllabus for the course; all students are graded based upon the requirements outlined in the syllabus and nothing more. There are no special deals, relaxed standards, or extra credit opportunities based upon class standing or other factors. Your grade is a function of your effort and ability to synthesize the material and apply it. That is an essential part of a fair grading system, and it provides the ability to maintain academic integrity.

If you are surprised by your grade at the end of the semester, you have the right to ask if the grade was given in error. I am more than happy to check your scores to verify that no clerical error was made; these errors are extremely rare, but possible. In the exceptional circumstance of a clerical error, it will be corrected promptly. Note that final course grades are non-negotiable, and University policy establishes that grades are given at the sole discretion of the faculty. If your grade was not given in error, that is your final, non-negotiable grade.

Please do not ask me to give you a higher grade at the end of the semester!
Plan early and score as many points as possible.

Curve
If necessary, grades may be assigned by considering your performance relative to the class's overall performance (e.g., a curve), especially if the class average is low. **There is no guarantee of a curve; however, I will not curve downward—if everyone earns an A, then everyone receives an A.**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

With the exception of any collaborative-based research, it should go without saying that I expect you to turn in work that represents your efforts and not those of anyone else without proper citations.

Academic dishonesty intended to gain an unfair academic advantage, such as plagiarism, cheating, and falsifying academic records will result in an automatic grade of **F** for this course. Repeat offenses may have more severe consequences, up to and including expulsion from the University.

The following comes directly from the University Rules (UPS 300.021):
http://www.fullerton.edu/senate/publications_policies_resolutions/ups/UPS%20300/UPS%20300.021.pdf

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating on examinations or assignments, unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, falsification/fabrication of university documents, any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor), assisting or allowing any of these acts, or the attempt to commit such acts.

Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: using notes or aides (including electronic devices) or the help of other students on tests and examinations in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor, or any acts which defeat the intent of an examination, plagiarism as defined below, and collaborating with others on any assignment where such collaboration is expressly forbidden by an instructor. Violation of this prohibition of collaboration shall be deemed an offense for the person or persons collaborating on the work, in addition to the person submitting the work. Documentary falsification includes forgery, altering of campus documents or records, tampering with grading procedures (including submitting altered work for re-grading), fabricating lab assignments, or altering or falsifying medical excuses or letters of recommendation.

Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking the work (words, ideas, concepts, data, graphs, artistic creation) of another whether that work is paraphrased or copied in verbatim or near verbatim form and offering it as one's own without giving credit to that source. When sources are used in a paper, acknowledgment of the original author or source must be made through appropriate citation/attribution and, if directly quoted, quotation marks or indentations must be used. Improper acknowledgment of sources in essays, papers, or presentations is prohibited.

Keep in mind that academic dishonesty could also involve the following:
- Having a tutor or friend complete a portion of your assignments
- Having a reviewer make extensive revisions to an assignment
- Copying work submitted by another student who may have taken this course before
- Using information from online information services without proper citation

See also California State University Regulation – Section 41301: Standards for Student Conduct.

When in doubt, ask me!

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Administrative Drops

According to department policy, any student who misses the first class meeting and does not contact the Computer Science Department office to hold his or her seat, may be dropped from the class.

E-mail

You have a CSUF-issued e-mail account, and this is the only way I will contact you outside of class. Please make a habit to check your e-mail frequently for important class announcements and individual messages.

Emergencies

For information on actions you should take in an emergency, please visit this website: http://prepare.fullerton.edu/

In the event I am unable to get to campus for a personal or work-related emergency, I will send a class-wide e-mail to all of you. Should that occur, you are will not be expected to attend class but rather work independently or in groups on the week's lecture topic or on your term paper. If I become aware enough in advance to let the Computer Science Department Chair and staff know of my impending absence, I will try to arrange for a substitute.

If I am unable to get to campus due to a local, regional, or university-based emergency, I will first try to e-mail all of you. In the event I cannot do that, you are dismissed from class after waiting not longer than 30 minutes (e.g., after 7:30 p.m.). We will do our best to catch up.

If the event preventing us from meeting is long-term (e.g., an earthquake that closes the campus for several weeks), we will do our best to work via e-mail, but in all cases, we will adhere to the direction of the University.

ADA Accommodations/Documented Special Needs

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements must register with the Office of Disability Support Services within the first week of classes. The Office of Disability Support Services' website is http://www.fullerton.edu/DSS/.

They can be reached by phone at (657) 278-3112. Their e-mail address is dsservices@fullerton.edu.

Their office is located in University Hall, Room 101. The instructor may request verification of need from the Dean of Students Office. Students requesting accommodations shall inform their instructors during the first week of classes about any disability or special needs that may require specific arrangements/accommodations related to attending class sessions, completing course assignments, writing papers or quizzes, tests, or examinations.

University Learning Center

If you require help with writing assignments in this or any other course, please contact either The University Learning Center at (657) 278-2738 ((Pollack Library North, 1st floor) http://www.fullerton.edu/ulc/assistance/

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

There are a lot of stresses for busy college students! If you feel overwhelmed by your school, home, work, and/or other commitments, you are encouraged to contact campus Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) as soon as possible at (657) 278-3040. CAPS offers an array of services that are free to all enrolled students! https://www.fullerton.edu/caps/

Library

If you need help accessing databases and information at the library, contact them for a Research Consultation. https://www.library.fullerton.edu/mylibrary/

Recording & Transcription of Class Content

Recording class content is governed by UPS 330.230:
http://www.fullerton.edu/senate/publications_policies_resolutions/ups/UPS%20300/UPS%20330.230.pdf

Each instructor must permit class content to be recorded or transcribed by students when mandated to do so by the Americans with Disabilities Act or by other federal or state laws. Any recording of class content is for private use and study and shall not be made publicly accessible without the written consent of the instructor and students in the class.

Student Resources

Any student who wishes to discuss any concern, may contact the assistant deans of the college. Assistant deans are student advocates who will help you navigate the university's policies and procedures and assist with resolving any conflicts.

Mr. Carlos Santana
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs—CS-206B
(657) 278-4407
csantana@fullerton.edu

https://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/dean/assistantdean.php

Ms. Lillybeth Sasis
Assistant Dean International Programs and Global Engagement--CS-206
(657) 278-4881
Lsasis@fullerton.edu

https://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/dean/assistantdean_intprog_globaleng.php