

# Ethics and The Computer

## 258.001

### (COURSE SYLLABUS)

<i>Class: 258</i>	<i>Class hours: 3</i>	<i>Time: 3:30–4:45 M.W.</i>
<i>Section: 001</i>	<i>Credit hours: 3</i>	<i>Class room:</i>

**Instructor:** *Mashhad Al-Allaf*

*B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Philosophy: Concentration on Science and Metaphysics.*

**Marital status:** Married, has two children (daughter and son).

**E-Mail:** **mashhad9@Yahoo.com**

**Office hours:** Before or after class, and by appointment.

**Text Book:** **Society, Ethics, and Technology.** Edited by M. E. Winston and R.D. Edelbach, First edition, Wadsworth, 2000.

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to present the student with a solid introduction to contemporary moral problems and ethical theories in their relation to computer's technology. Emphasis will also be placed on the basic elements of ethical reasoning and argumentation and how these, along with ethical theory, can be used to solve (or attempt to solve) ethical conflict and dilemmas in our life. To deal seriously with ethical issues we need to see argumentation as more than just mere opinions. In order to facilitate lively and pointed discussion we will cover the basics of ethical theories.

### **Course Requirements:**

- 1- Class attendance and participation is mandatory: Students should arrive at class having carefully studied the assigned text and prepared to discuss it.
- 2- Complete all reading assignments.
- 3- Take three exams on course material.
- 4- One page weekly summary of the assignments.
- 5- Reading quizzes.
- 6- Verbal Report has to be presented in groups of 3-4 students.

### **Grading Scale:**

	97-100 =A+	92-96=A	89.5-91=A-
25% First Exam.	86-89 =B+	82-85=B	79.5-81=B-
25% Second Exam.	76-79=C+	72-75=C	69.5-71=C-
25% Third Exam.	66-69=D+	62-65=D	59.5-61=D-
	59 and below=F, or 92=A, 82=B, 72=C, 62=D		

### **25% The Followings:**

Quizzes:	15 points.
Participation:	15 points.
Summary:	20 points. No hand written summary. Late summary will not be accepted.
Verbal report:	20 points.
Attendance:	30 points, every absence is a (-3 points). Up to 5 minutes of being late coming to class is a (-1 point), 10 minutes or more is (-2 points).

### **Make-up Exams and Late Papers:**

Make-up exams will only be given in cases of a *documented* illness or personal crisis. If you are too ill to take the exam, then you will need to present verifiable documentation from a licensed healthcare professional. The same rule applies to late papers.

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<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>READING/ACTIVITY</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE #</u></b>
January 14 M	<i>Class Introduction and Policies</i>	-----
Jan. 16 W	Children of Invention.	1-19
Jan. 21 M	<b><u>Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday; No Class.</u></b>	-----
Jan. 23 W	Women and Technology.	69-83
Jan. 28 M	The Philosophy of Feminism.	Lecture
Jan. 30 W	Discussion or Movie.	-----
Feb. 4 M	I'd Hammer Out Freedom.	93-102
Feb. 6 W	Revenge Theory.	102-107
Feb. 11 M	Artifacts, Ideas and Political Culture. Review.	107-114
Feb. 13 W	<b><u>First Exam.</u></b>	-----
Feb. 18 M	Technology and Responsibility.	114-125
Feb. 20 W	Ethics of Duty and Ethics of benefit.	Lecture
Feb. 25 M	Computer and Social Justice.	138-148
Feb. 27 W	The New Luddite Challenge.	159-162
March 4 M	The End of Work.	164-171
March 6 W	The Global Highway. Mid Semester.	171-181
March 11 M	Discussion or Movie, Review.	-----
March 13 W	<b><u>Second Exam</u></b>	-----
March 18 M	Bill Gates: Information and Our Future.	199-205
March 20 W	Computer and Privacy.	205-223
March 25 M	<b><u>Spring Break; No Class.</u></b>	-----
March 27 W	<b><u>Spring Break; No Class.</u></b>	-----
April 1 M	Philosophy of Privacy.	Lecture
April 3 W	Protection of Privacy and Discussion.	Lecture
April 8 M	The Constitution in Cyberspace.	223-231
April 10 W	Universal Robots.	231-240
April 15 M	Frankenstein's Monster.	241-246
April 17 W	Discussion or Movie.	-----
April 22 M	Verbal Report.	-----
April 24 W	Verbal Report.	-----
April 29 M	Verbal Report.	-----
May 1 W	The Tragedy of The Common. Review.	284-294
May 6 M	<b><u>Third Exam.</u></b>	