

Ethics in Technology

The ethics of modern technology.

Course syllabus.

Instructor:	Dr. Neil R. Quinn Jr.
Office:	Center for Science, Technology and Society
Phone:	408-554-5723 school, 408-434-0404 home
Office Hours:	Mon 10:30-11:30am, Tues 10:30-11:30am
E-Mail:	nquinn@scu.edu
Web Page:	http://cseserv.engr.scu.edu/nquinn/
Lecture:	MWF 11:45-12:50, Room ENGR-105

The objective of this course is to equip students, involved in technologically oriented curriculums, with a set of ethical decision making tools to assist them in their careers and throughout their lives. The first part of the course will introduce students to the methodology of ethical decision making. The remainder of the course will utilize the methodology learned in the analysis of various cases taken from different technological disciplines. Each case will be presented and analyzed by students utilizing rigorous ethical methods to determine a course of action.

Class	Topic of Class	Ethical Area	Date
1	Class introduction What is Technology, what is Ethics? – Liberator, Threat, Instrument of Power	Ethical Methods	03-Apr W
2	What is Morality? Rachels Chap 1.	Ethical Methods	05-Apr F
3	Morality Velasquez Chap 1.2 & 1.4., Rachels Chap 4 – Humanistic – Religious	Ethical Methods	08-Apr M
4	Ethics – Basics of Ethical Decision Making – Subjectivism in Ethics. Rachels Chap 3.	Ethical Methods	10-Apr W
5	Biology – Rachels Chap 7. – Cloning – http://www.pathfinder.com/TIME/cloning/	Utilitarianism vs Duties	12-Apr F
6	Biology – Rachels – Chap 9. – DNA testing	Deontological Duties/Rights	15-Apr M
7	The Internet Good/Bad, how to use it. Guest Helene Lafrance.		17-Apr W
8	Ethical Methods – Velasquez Chap 2 pp. 82–119 – Rights / Justice	Ethical Methods Justice	19-Apr F
9	Engineering – Confidentiality / Plagiarism – M&S 208–215.	Utilitarianism vs Duties	22-Apr M
10	Engineering – Knowledge Transfer/Ownership – Occupational Crime – M&S 224–230.	Rights vs Utilitarianism	24-Apr W
11	Biology – Barbour, 194–200. – Genetic Engineering (suggested reading R&A 171–215)	Rights vs Justice	26-Apr F
12	Biology – Therapeutic Cloning – CACC, Green, Robinson	Justice vs Utilitarianism	29-Apr M

13	Chemistry / Pharmaceutical – Safety – M&S 299–303. – Drug testing – Schrag 80–94	Justice vs Utilitarianism	01-May W
14	Computer - Rachels Chap 2. <i>Research paper outline due</i> – Governing and Regulating the Internet – Spinello Chap 1&2	Individual Privacy vs Public Good	03-May F
15	Computer – Censorship – S&H 255–259 – Spinello Chap 3	Rights	06-May M
16	Computer - Rachels Chap 5. – Intellectual Property – Spinello Chap 4	Rights	08-May W
17	Computer - Rachels Chap 6. – Privacy – Spinello Chap 5	Justice	10-May F
18	Computer – Rachels Chap 13. – Encryption – Spinello Chap 6	Non–malfeasance	13-May M
19	Database - Ethics and Technology Links – Algorithms for web page creation from a database.	Microsoft Access.	15-May W
20	Military – Nuclear Weapons – Barbour, 200–212.	Utilitarianism vs Deontological	17-May F
21	Military - Rachels Chap 8. <i>Research paper due</i> – Biological / Chemical Weapons – Working in the defense industry. M&S 332–343	Utilitarianism vs Deontological	20-May M
22	Energy – Barbour 116–122 & 122–131. - Rachels Chap 10. – Fossil – Nuclear	Utilitarianism vs Justice	22-May W
23	Energy – Barbour 131–135. - Rachels Chap 11. – Renewable – Alternative	Utilitarianism vs Justice	24-May F
24	Environmental – Air and Water Pollution – Barbour 57–82.	Global Ethics	29-May W
25	Agricultural – GMF – Carbone & McLean (on the web site)	Virtue	31-May F
26	Agricultural - Rachels Chap 12. <i>Link Database Due</i> – Food and Hunger – Barbour, 85–91. – Food production	Utilitarianism vs Justice	03-Jun M
27	Agricultural - Rachels Chap 14. – Crop Alteration – When Biotech goes Wild	Utilitarianism	05-Jun W
28	Quarter wrap up – Final Exam preview		07-Jun F
	<i>Final Exam Due</i>	12:10p.m.	10-Jun M

Grades for the course will be determined on the basis of:

Class participation / inclass presentations.	40%
A research paper – 5-10 pages	30%
Ethics in Technology Links / Database Query	10%
A take home final exam	20%

Class participation / case presentation: Attendance in class is mandatory. I reserve the right to deduct 5% from your overall grade for EACH class you miss during the quarter. (This is not a bluff, ask the students who have taken the course in the past). Students will participate in team presentations of two or three of the cases covered during the course. Each presentation should take approximately 30 minutes. Since this course involves technology, students will be expected to use technology to present their cases. The team should develop a presentation using either MS–Powerpoint or HTML to display the salient features of the case, describe the questions, and provide answers and/or commentary on each of the questions. The answers and/or commentary on the questions should demonstrate a grasp of ethical methods consistent with those covered in the course.

The research paper assignment presents you with an opportunity to investigate a technology issue with which you are most interested. This paper should be an analytical essay, i.e., an in-depth discussion that also defends a particular position. This research paper must utilize *at least two* high quality academic sources outside of the required readings. The course textbooks will help you identify appropriate sources (e.g., the journals that originally published the articles, footnoted material, and lists of supplementary reading), and may contain non-assigned readings pertinent to your topic. This paper should be consistent with University guidelines for research papers. Both form and content are important for the success of this assignment. **The research paper shall utilize HTML as the presentation medium.** Correct spelling, grammar, and citation of sources are expected. You will receive a more detailed set of instructions later in the quarter. This paper should be 5 – 10 pages of text in length.

Database of “Ethics in Technology” Links: This database/presentation will consist of students both adding links to a database and creating a series of queries to dynamically display these links. The objective is to create a database of links to various web sites dealing with Ethics in Technology and display these links in a manner based on a sort selection criteria requested by the user. The student will be required to enter at least 20 links into the database, use SQL to query the database, and produce reports to display them.

The take home final exam will consist of definitions of key terms and a set of essay questions. It will be a comprehensive final exam, with material from both lectures and readings as fair game for the exam. The exam should take approximately 3 hours to complete.

The areas of the course addressing the 3 goals of the Core Curriculum Technology Requirement are:

To develop skills (uses of applications, knowledge of networking, etc.) === Students learn and use the computer based applications of Powerpoint, HTML authoring, Access databases.

To develop such "critical thinking" as is fostered by technology (algorithmic thinking, etc.) === Students will learn the art of querying the contents of an Access database via SQL queries.

To study and foster social analysis of technology (social impact of technology, ethical issues in technology, justice issues, economic issues, "sensitivity to human community," etc.) === Students will analyze a number of different areas of technology and the ethical issues arising from these technologies.

References

There will be three required texts:

Rachels "The Elements of Moral Philosophy"; 3rd ed., © 1993,1986,1998; James Rachels; (McGraw-Hill Companies; ISBN: 0070525609; Format: Paperback, 3rd ed., 231pp.)

Barbour "Ethics in an Age of Technology"; ©1993; Barbour, Ian; (HarperSanFrancisco; ISBN: 0-06-060935-4)

Spinello "Cyber Ethics: Morality and law in Cyberspace"; ©2000; Spinello, Richard; (Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc., Sudbury, MA 01776; ISBN: 0-7637-1269-8)

In addition, a course packet will be available on-line containing selected readings from the following works.

Bereano1 BODY AND SOUL: The Price of Biotech; Philip L. Bereano; Special to The Times (first of two parts), The Seattle Times, Sunday, August 20, 1995, p.B5; <http://students.washington.edu/radin/body.htm>

Bereano2 Patent Pending: THE RACE TO OWN DNA Guaymi tribe was surprised to discover they were invented; Philip L. Bereano; Special to The Times (Second of two parts), The Seattle Times, Sunday, Aug. 27, 1995, p.B5; <http://students.washington.edu/radin/guaymi.htm>

CACC "The Ethics Of Human Cloning And Stem Cell Research" Summary Notes for Members of the California State Legislature from the California Cloning Commission. <http://www.scu.edu/SCU/Centers/Ethics/publications/cloning.html>

Green The Ethical Considerations (of Therapeutic Cloning) Ronald M. Green, director of the Ethics Institute at Dartmouth College and chair of the ethics advisory board of Advanced Cell Technology in Worcester.

Hart "Ethics and Technology"; ©1994,1997; Hart, John; (First Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, OH; ISBN: 0-8298-1222-9)

K&G "Ethical Decision Making and Information Technology"; ©1993; Kallman, Ernest; Grillo, John; (Mitchell McGraw-Hill; ISBN: 0-07-033884-1)

M&S "Ethics in Engineering"; 3rd ed., ©1996; Martin, Mike; Schinzinger, Roland; (McGraw Hill, New York; ISBN: 0-07-040849-1)

R&A "On Behalf of God"; ©1995; Reichenbach, Bruce R.; Anderson, V. Elving; (Wm. B. Erdmans Publishing Co.; Grand Rapids, MI; ISBN: 0-8028-0727-5)

Robinson Therapeutic Cloning, To Create Human Organs B. A. Robinson, Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance

S&H "Ethics, Information and Technology – Readings"; ©1998; Strichler, Richard; Hauptman, Robert, editors; (McFarland & Company, Inc. North Carolina; ISBN: 0-7864-0392-6)

Schrag "Research Ethics: Cases and Commentaries", Vol 3; ©1999; Schrag, Brian; Ed.; NSF Grant Number SBR 9241897; Association for Practical and Professional Ethics; Bloomington, IN.

Spinello "Case Studies in Information and Computer Ethics"; ©1997; Spinello, Richard; (Prentice Hall Inc., New Jersey; ISBN: 0-13-533845-X)

Velasquez "Business Ethics: Concepts and Cases "; 4th ed., ©1998; Velasquez, Manuel G.; (Prentice Hall Inc., New Jersey; ISBN: 013350851X)