

Instructor:	Pat Troy	(312) 996-8521	troy AT uic . edu
Office Hours:	11:00 – 12:00	Monday	919 SEO
	12:30 – 1:30	Tuesday & Thursday	919 SEO
	or by appointment		
Class Times:	2:00 – 2:50	Monday & Wednesday	220 SH
Texts:	<u>Ethics for the Information Age</u> , by Michael J. Quinn, Addison-Wesley Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-0-13-213387-6, ISBN-10: 0-13-213387-3		
Web Page:	<a href="http://www.cs.uic.edu/CS335">http://www.cs.uic.edu/CS335</a>		
Catalog Description:	Ethical, societal and environmental issues for computer professionals. Professional ethics, software ownership, unreliability, responsibility, privacy, computer crime, veracity, expert systems, workplace and health issues.		
Prerequisites:	CS 202: Data Structures II or CS 251: Data Structure		
Course Work:	Presentation		30%
	Pop Quizzes, Midterm (and possible Final)		20%
	Writing assignments		40%
	Class Participation		10%
Grading:	100% - 90.0%	Grade A	
	89.9% - 80.0%	Grade B	
	79.9% - 70.0%	Grade C	
	69.9% - 60.0%	Grade D	
	59.9% - 0%	Grade E	

### Quizzes, Midterm, Final

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. Those who arrive late will have less time or will entirely miss the quiz, which will last around 5 minutes. Quizzes will be based on previous lectures or assigned readings. No makeup quizzes will be given, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There will be a cumulative midterm. There may be a final.

### Writing Assignments

This semester, there will be 3 writing assignments: an Ethics Interest paper (**due Wednesday of third week**), a book report, and a term paper. The writing assignments will all be turned in via hardcopy.

These assignments will be graded primarily on content, but I will also grade the mechanics of the writing. For the term paper, each of you will review a draft of another student's paper, and a few of the points for the term paper will be based on that review.

Mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.) will count for some of the grade for all writing assignments. For (free!) help with your writing, I encourage you to use the [UIC Writing Center](#). Writing tutors are your friends and allies!

### Class Participation

Discussion is a critically important component of this class. Class participation means being actively involved in discussions and asking questions, demonstrating you have read the material and thought about it ahead of time. After I have assigned readings or position papers I will choose members from the class to comment. I will ask you to read your classmate's term papers (I'll tell you which ones) and will ask random students for their thoughts. I will keep track of who is prepared and who isn't. You have to be present to comment, so I will take roll regularly by asking questions using the class list.

### Weekly Reading Assignments

1. Introduction to IT policy issues. Discussion of book report, term paper, and leading debate or discussion. Read Quinn, Chapter 1.1, 1.5 and Quinn Chapter 1 Interview, and *Blown to Bits*, Chapter 1. (Reading due for start of Wednesday's class)
2. History of Computing Read Quinn, 1.2–1.4. Introduction to classic ethics Read Quinn, Chpt 2.
3. Introduction to classic ethics. Read Quinn, Chapter 2.
4. Computer reliability, and errors and failures. Liability. Risks, importance of professionalism. For Monday, read Quinn, Chapter 7.1–7.4, 7.8, and, for Wednesday, Therac-25 case, including mock trial for Therac-25 deaths, read Quinn, 7.5–7.7, and [Leveson's Report on the Therac-25](#).
5. The Internet and the Web
  1. Freedom of expression: attempts to censor the Internet, filters, international issues, also the problem of spam. Quinn 3.1–3.6.
  2. Modern problems: Identity theft, cyberbullying, Internet addiction. Quinn 3.7–end-of-Chapter interview.
6. Intellectual property: copyright and fair use. Copyright versus patent versus trade secret. Filesharing and "piracy" of software, music, movies, etc. DMCA controversies. Expect to have one outside speaker from library on fair use, and a second (either outside IP lawyer or from UIC Office of Technology Management) on how you can protect the software that you write to make a living. Read Quinn, Chapter 4.1–4.7.
7. Intellectual property 2: Open-Source software and Creative Commons. Quinn, rest of Chpt. 4.
8. Midterm exam perhaps Wednesday March 10. (Subject to change!)
9. Privacy: What they know, data aggregation, how 2011 is 1984. Facebook. Read *Bits*, Chapter 2 and Quinn, 5.9.9, p. 267 (on the Facebook Beacon fiasco.)
10. Privacy: Philosophy. Quinn, Chapter 5.1–5.2.
11. Privacy: Government surveillance, and US laws relating to same. Quinn, 5.5–5.9.6.
12. Encryption, Quinn 5.11, and *Bits*, pp. 191–193.
13. Cyber-Crime: Identity theft, malware, hackers, bots, etc. Quinn 5.10, 6.1–6.4.
14. Computers' impact on Society: Workplace issues, the Digital Divide, the "Winner-Take-All Society". Quinn Chapter 9.
15. Ethical issues for computing professionals. Quinn Chapter 8.

**Leading Discussion or Debate**

Students will be required to pair up and lead the class in a discussion or debate. For your topic area I suggest you look at each section's links on the course [schedule](#), the textbook, the current news, as well as a previous text book's associated web site (A Gift of Fire, by Sara Baase).

Your prepared portion of your discussion or debate should last 20 - 25 minutes, *including* at least 5 minutes at the end for questions / interaction with the class. Part of your discussion/debate grade will be the extent to which your presentation stimulates thought or questions, and your ability to answer questions/challenges given by the class in response to your comments.

- *Grading for Discussion or Debate*

Students should share responsibility for preparation and presentation. For Leading Discussions, everyone in the group will receive the same grade. For Debates, you will be graded individually. You will be graded on a scale of 0 to 4 for each of the following 5 areas:

- 1 Interesting. Engages the class and stimulates discussion. Well thought-out questions for the class.
- 2 Communicates verbally effectively. (Argues convincingly for debates)
- 3 Use of visual aids (overheads, board, web, handouts, etc.)
- 4 Understands the issues; Knows the facts, main points, uses supporting cases/scenarios/questions.
- 5 Well-prepared; Knows exactly who is doing what in the group; Uses appropriate amount of time, including 5 minutes at the end for interaction with class.

This gives a possible total of 20 points. For each area, a grade of 3 is considered normal, for a "normal" total score of 15. Only truly outstanding performance will get a score higher than a 3 (out of 4) for any of the above 5 areas.

The topic of your presentation may be the same topic as your term paper. If you wish to choose your own partner for the presentation, do so immediately. I will be assigning "un-matched partners" by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the semester.

**Key Dates for Spring 2013**

- **Ethics Interest Paper:** Due: Wednesday, January 30th
- **Presentations:** Topic Selection Due: Friday, February 8th
- **Book Report:** Book Selection Due: Friday, February 2th
- **Presentations:** Begin: Monday, February 25th
- **Presentations:** Draft Outline Due 1 week before presentation date
- **Presentations:** Final Outline and copy of slides due on day of presentation
- **Intellectual Property Presentation:** TBD
- **Midterm Exam:** Wednesday, March 6th
- **Term Paper:** Topic Selection Due: Friday, March 8th
- **Book Report:** Due: Wednesday, March 20th
- **Term Paper:** Draft Due: Wednesday, April 10th
- **Term Paper:** Critique on Draft Due: Wednesday, April 17th
- **Term Paper:** Due: Wednesday, April 24th