

# EMIS 2375: Cultural and Ethical Implications of Technology

## Syllabus May Term 2018

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Office: TBD  
Office Hours: Before or after class  
Or by appointment

Canvas: [Canvas.smu.edu](https://canvas.smu.edu)  
click on EMIS 2375

Course Materials: Ethics for the Information Age – 7<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Michael J. Quinn

Society, Ethics, & Technology – 5<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Morton Winston and Ralph Edelbach

### Course Description:

This course is designed to educate students of all disciplines about the far-reaching societal impact of the ethical decision-making process regarding the use of technology. The influence of ethics in making choices is widespread—they affect an individual's, a business's, or even a country's security, economic strength, policies, and culture. Today's widely available technology has enabled participation in large-scale cheating and theft by ordinary citizens, including many who consider themselves as upstanding members of society. The course develops the student's ability to think critically about contemporary technological ethical issues and the impact of personal decisions living and working in a global technological society.

### Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

#### *2012 Philosophical & Religious Inquiry and Ethics II*

- Students will be able to identify ethical issues within a particular domain, and to explain and evaluate responses to those issues in terms of both their factual and ethical presuppositions.

#### *2016 Humanities and Fine Arts (Depth)*

- Students will demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on or apply methods, theories, or principles from philosophy or religious studies via a focus on a specific area or set of issues.
- Students will identify ethical issues within a particular domain, and to explain and evaluate responses to those issues in terms of both their factual and ethical presuppositions.

#### *2016 Technology and Math (Breadth)*

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the social or environmental implications of technology.

#### *2012/2016 UC Proficiencies and Experience - Information Literacy*

- Students will be able to select and use the appropriate research methods and search tools for needed information.
- Students will be able to evaluate sources for quality of information for a given information need.

#### *2012/2016 UC Proficiencies and Experience – Oral Communication*

- Students will be able to select, organize and use appropriate evidence or information to suit a specific or targeted audience.
- Students will be able to use appropriate vocal and visual cues to deliver a presentation to a specific or targeted audience.

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### Method of Presentation:

- Class lectures, film clips and discussion will complement the assigned reading material. Students are expected to have read the assigned material before attending the class.
- Current topical information found outside the text may be assigned in class and included in the lecture. It is important that the student attend class in order to get this information.

### Method of Evaluation:

Grades are earned as follows:

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Exams                              | 60% |
| Discussions/Homework/Participation | 15% |
| Group Case Analysis                | 25% |

### Exams:

Over the course of the semester, 2 exams will be administered. These exams constitute 60% of your grade. The exams will be multiple choice as well as essay. Exams will cover material presented in class (lecture slides, videos, and discussions), reading assignments (textbooks and online articles), and homework assignments. Reading assignments, articles, and videos will be posted on Canvas.

If a lecture exam is missed, a comprehensive make-up exam will be given during the regularly scheduled final exam period to replace the missed exam. Only one missed test will be credited.

### Case Analyses:

Case analysis will be conducted in the following forums using the ethical decision making framework and ethical theories to explain the effects on individuals, business, and society.

- Class discussion
- Homework assignments
- Presentation and submission of a group case research paper analyzing the case using 5 ethical theories. This must include at least 3 academic and scholarly sources to support the conclusions.

### Discussions/Homework/Participation:

Students are expected to attend all class lectures. The participation grade is directly linked to attendance. Students are required to actively participate in the class open discussion forum regarding course material in a constructive/critical manner. At the end of the semester, students will be evaluated on the frequency, quality, and depth of the comments. Refer to CAPP (Class Attendance, Participation, and Professionalism). Homework assignments will be given to support lecture concepts and to learn and practice searching for academic and scholarly sources for a paper.

If a lecture session is missed, it is the student's responsibility to get the notes or assignment information from a classmate. Always check the course Canvas site for assignments, due dates, and additional class information.

### Group Case Analysis:

Each student will participate in a group case analysis covering a specific topic assigned by the Professor. Instructions for the successful completion of the assignment will be posted on Canvas. You will be required to incorporate course material such as; framework for decision making, and the ethical theories.

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### Electronic Devices:

Use of personal computers or other electronic devices during lecture is prohibited. All cell phones should be set to silent for emergencies only. Non-emergency calls/texts/emails should not be acknowledged during class time. Any student, who chooses to violate this policy, will be asked to leave the room, considered absent and subject to attendance/participation policies.

### University Honor Code:

The SMU Honor Code applies to all work performed in this class. Giving or receiving dishonest aid on homework or exams, or toleration of such action, constitutes an Honor Code violation. Unless specifically stated in writing, all work in this course is to be completed on an individual basis, and will be evaluated as such. Any collaboration on a lab assignment, a lecture exam, or extra credit assignment will be considered an honor violation. Honor code violations will be dealt with by the instructor and referred to the Honor Council if necessary.

(SMU Honor Code: [http://smu.edu/studentlife/PCL\\_05\\_HC.asp](http://smu.edu/studentlife/PCL_05_HC.asp) )

### Disability Accommodations:

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

### Religious Observance:

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

### Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities:

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (University Undergraduate Catalogue)

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### Topics and Exam Dates – May Term 2018

|      |    |                                                                                                             |                         |
|------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| May  | 17 | Course Orientation & History of Technology<br>Introduction to Ethics                                        | Chapter 1<br>Chapter 2  |
|      | 18 | Decision Making Framework<br>Case Analysis Project Introduction -<br>Plagiarism<br>Networked Communications | Appendix-A<br>Chapter 3 |
|      | 21 | Computer and Network Security                                                                               | Chapter 7               |
|      | 22 | Intellectual Property                                                                                       | Chapter 4               |
|      | 23 | Exam 1 – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and Appendix A                                                             |                         |
|      | 24 | Information Privacy                                                                                         | Chapter 5               |
|      | 25 | Security and Surveillance                                                                                   | Chapter 2.1             |
|      | 28 | Memorial Day – No Class                                                                                     |                         |
|      | 29 | Presentations                                                                                               |                         |
|      | 30 | Artificial Intelligence and Robotics                                                                        | Chapter 2.2             |
| June | 31 | Biotechnology                                                                                               | Chapter 2.5             |
|      | 1  | Exam 2 – Chapters 5, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.5                                                                      |                         |