

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dept., Number	CS485	Course Title	Computers and Society
Semester hours	3	Course Coordinator	Charles Bauer, Professor Emeritus

Current Catalog Description

Discussion of the impact of computer technology on present and future society. Historical development of the computer. Social issues raised by cybernetics. Prerequisites: CS 105, COM421 or COM428. (3-0-3) (C)

Textbook

Computers and Society 08/09 Editor: DePalma, Paul McGraw-Hill/Dushkin

References

Course Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the social and professional context in which computing is done.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic cultural, social, legal, and ethical issues inherent in the discipline of computing.
- Identify milestones in the development and application of information technology.
- Ask serious questions about the social impact of computing and to evaluate proposed answers to those questions.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the basic legal rights of software and hardware vendors and users, and the ethical values that are the basis for those rights.
- Research the social and ethical issues of a computer related topic from the list in the syllabus.
- Communicate, both orally and in written form, social and ethical issues of a computer related topic from the list in the syllabus.

Relationship between Course Outcomes and Program Outcomes

The following Program Outcomes are supported by the above Course Outcomes:

- d. An ability to function effectively on teams to accomplish a common goal
- e. An understanding of professional, ethical, legal, security, and social issues and

responsibilities

- f. An ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences
- g. An ability to analyze the local and global impact of computing on individuals, organizations and society

Prerequisites by Topic

Broad understanding of information technology and applications.

Major Topics Covered in the Course

1. Topics in <i>Computers in Society</i>	11 hours
• Introduction to Computers in Society and Information Revolutions; The Economy; Work and the Workplace; Computers, People and Social Participation; Social Institutions (property) Law and Politics; Social Values and Risks: Ethics, and Privacy and Preserving the Past; International Perspective and Issues; Philosophical frontiers	
2. Social Issues on a broad set of Information Technology related topics such as:	18 hours
• Computers and Network Security; Computers and Privacy; Computers and Intellectual Property; Computers and Law; Computers and Distance Learning; Computers and Education; Computers and Women and Minorities; etc.	
3. History of Computers (by decades)	3 hours
4. Moral and Ethical Issues in Computers and Society and the ACM code of Ethics	9 hours
Orientation, Student Portfolio (for assessment purposes), Midterm	4 hours
Final Exam	-
	45 hours

Assessment Plan for the Course

End of every semester Course Objective Assessments by CS department. End of semester Course Evaluations by IIT. Reviewed every Spring semester by CS Undergraduate Studies Committee for possible updates in the following Fall. Once every 4-5 years a detailed review of all materials for the course is made by the CS Undergraduate Studies Committee.

How Data in the Course is Used to Assess Program Outcomes (unless adequately covered already in the assessment discussion under Criterion 4)

See the assessment discussion under Criterion 4

For a computer science program

Estimate Curriculum Category Content (Semester hours)

Area	Core	Advanced	Area	Core	Advanced
Algorithms			Software design		
Data structures			Concepts of programming languages		