Course   Information

Description

The class will examine, reflect upon, and evaluate the role of ethics and philosophy in the practice of Computer Science. Focus will be on personal decision making and on the criteria for ethical behavior in a technological environment.

Text

Deborah G. Johnson (2001), *Computer Ethics, Third Edition*, Prentice-Hall.
        ISBN   0-13-083699-0

We will also read a diversity of current technical and semi-popular articles. The course will be organized as a series of case studies, ethical and social problems cast into reasonable scenerios.

Evaluation

Students will be expected to assign themselves a grade, using ethical criteria.

Commentary

This class will have a substantively different organization than traditional skills-based classes. The content is ethical decision-making, and is centered in personal, subjective choices.

1. All classes will meet "in the round", as a discussion group of peers.

2. We will focus on critical and ethical thinking. Shared perspectives will form most of the content, shared analysis of perspectives will form most of the evaluative component.

3. Readings prior to class time are essential. We will follow the textbook closely.

4. Students will be expected to form opinions about issues, and to express and justify those opinions in class.