I453 Information Ethics:
This course explores the ethical and professionalization issues that arise in the context of designing and using information technologies. We will study the major ethical theories and frameworks that have shaped the field of information ethics and use them to address topics relevant to the informatics profession, including privacy, intellectual property, cybercrime, games, social justice, gender equity. This course will help you read the literature of ethics to develop, articulate, and refine your own ethical framework; analyze the information issues and debates you encounter in light of that framework; and argue your position effectively in written and oral form.

This course meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-2:15 in Informatics East 150.

Course Objectives:
The aim of the course is not to tell you what to think about ethical issues, or what the proper views in computing ethics are. Rather, the aims are to increase your ability to:

1. Develop mature stances with regard to issues of professional ethics in general and computing ethics in particular, and
2. Present these stances in a manner that is persuasive to your peers, the most important audience for the articulation of your ethical views.

Instructor:
Professor Nathan. Ensmenger
303 Informatics West
Office Hours: T 9-10 am, Th 2:30-3:30 pm
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Assistant Instructor:
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Readings:
All of the readings will be posted on-line using OnCourse. It is your responsibility to check the OnCourse site regularly for announcements and updates.

Attendance Policy:
You can miss up to 2 classes without any excuses needed. After that for an absence to be excused it must be cleared with one of us ahead of time. Each unexcused absence will knock one point off of your participation grade.

Student Responsibilities:
Students are expected to attend class, do the readings, and be prepared to discuss the readings and issues with enthusiasm and civility. This course will engage with controversial issues. Students are expected to maintain respectful behavior toward one another and toward the teaching staff, even if they disagree with the ideas presented. If you feel uncomfortable with certain aspects of the course material, come and see me.
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about what might constitute plagiarism, please review the IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct. All students are expected to submit their own original work. If you need any accommodations due to a documented disability, please let me know as early in the term as possible.

Grading:
Your grade for the course will be based on the following components:

Reading quizzes: 20% : You will be asked a short question about the reading approximately 10 times during the semester. These will be graded with 0, 1, or 2 points.

Midterm Exam: 20% : You will have a midterm exam before Thanksgiving break on the first eight weeks of class material.

Participation: 23% : Participation means more than just showing up. It means actively engaging in the material and discussions with your classmates and instructors. In-class exercises, presentations, contributions to discussions, blog postings, and attendance will all go toward your participation grade.

Projects: 30% : There assignments for this class will include blog postings (10%), reading response papers (10%), a personal statement of ethical principles (10%), and a final design project (10%). More details on all of these projects will be provided at the beginning of the second week of class.
Blog Postings:
You will be required to make at least six postings to the class blog (http://i453ethics.wordpress.com) over the course of the semester. Blog postings are an opportunity for you to respond to the reading, post class-related materials (news stories, YouTube videos, etc.), and engage with your fellow students on class-related themes. You may begin your own thread or respond to the postings of others. The best blog postings go beyond stating “this is interesting” and develop an analytical or critical perspective. These will be graded with 0, 1, or 2 points.

Email Etiquette:
Please give us up to 24 hours to reply to your emails, and we will do the same for you. Please put the course number in the Subject line and remember to sign you email with your name. We expect the language and structure of your emails to be professional. This includes punctuation, salutations/signature, etc.
The best address to receive a timely response is i453ethics@gmail.com.

Course Schedule:

Week I

August 27: Introduction to Information Ethics
First Meeting. No readings. Show up. Say smart things.

August 30: Why Computer Ethics?

Week II

September 3: Intellectual Property: Theory and Law
Baase, A Gift of Fire, Chapter 4, “Intellectual Property”

September 5: Free as in Speech, Free as in Beer

Week III

September 10: Ethical Theory, Ethical Practice
Johnson, Computer Ethics, Chapter Two, “Ethics and Information Technology”

September 12: The Nazis did it first ...
Week IV

September 17: I know what you did last summer

September 19: Privacy in the Facebook Era
Reading response paper #1 due in class.

Week V

September 24: First, do no harm

September 26: Who watches the watchers?

Week VI

October 1: Globalism, Democracy, Multiculturism

October 3: Can you hear the people sing?

Week VII

October 8: Information and the Environment
Kiera Butler, “Are e-mail attachments good for the environment?”

October 10: Power; water; heat*

Week VIII

October 15: Synthesis & Review
No readings this week.

October 17: Mid-term Exam*
In-class mid-term exam.
**Week IX**

**October 22: Videogames I: The Real vs. the Virtual**


**Week X**

**October 24: Videogames II: Addiction?*  


**Week XI**

**October 29: Videogames III: Violence*  
Reynolds, R. "Playing a ‘Good’ Game: A Philosophical Approach to Understanding the Morality of Games" (2002)


**Week XII**

**October 31: Videogames IV: Values & Design*  
**November 5: Professional Ethics**

*ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct*

**November 7: Values in Computer Design**


**Week XIII**

**November 12: Social Networks I**

**November 14: Social Networks II**

**Week XIV**

**November 19: Race, Gender, and Identity**
Hilde G. Corneliussen, "World of Warcraft as a Playground for Feminism"
Eglash, Ron. “Race, Sex, and Nerds: From Black Geeks to Asian American Hipsters.” *Social Text* 2, no. 20: 49–64.

**November 21: Cyberbullies**
Readings TBD.

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**Thanksgiving Break**
Enjoy family, eat well, rest up.

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**Week XV**

- **December 3: Tools for Analysis: Opening the Black Box**

- **December 5: Tools for Design: Building Values**
  No readings. In-class discussions.

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**Week XVI**

- **December 10: Final Design Project Preparation**
  No readings. In-class presentations.

- **December 12: Final Design Project Presentations**
  No readings. In-class presentations.

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**Week XVII**

- **December 17: Final Design Project Presentations**
  No readings. In-class presentations.

- **December 19: The Big Finish, in which all will become clear ...**

There is no final exam for this course.