Week of Assignment

Jan 25th Introduction

Feb 1st Chapter 1

Feb 8th Chapter 1 & Hand-out on Ethics

Feb 15th Chapter 2 (Note: no class on 2/15)

Feb 22nd Chapter 3

March 1st Chapter 4

March 8th Review and going over examples

March 15th Review & Midterm Exam (Note: no class 3/17)

March 22nd Chapter 5

March 29th Chapter 6

April 5th Chapter 7 (Note: no class 4/2)

April 12th Presentation of Final Paper Topics.

April 19th Presentation of Final Paper Topics.

April 26th Final Country Presentations #1

May 3rd Final Country Presentations #2

**TEXT:** Johnson, Deborah: *Computer Ethics* 4th edition

Misc Hand-outs

**AIMS OF THE COURSE:** This course is designed to introduce you to question of ethics in general and how those questions arise within the use of computers in our society and the world. As informed citizens of the United States and the world we must be able to recognize the ways in which different societies make ethical decisions. What you will be asked to do in class discussions and the writing assignments is to develop and support your own position on some of the issues. The required paper and presentations (see "Requirements" below) are also designed to facilitate this process.
**REQUIREMENTS:**

**GRADES:** Grades will be earned based on the following percentages.

- Midterm Exam – 15%
- 7 Scenarios from the book – 35% (total)
- Class participation – 20%
- Final Country Presentation – 10%
- Final Paper – 20%

**ATTENDANCE:** You are expected to attend every class. If you miss more than four classes, I reserve the right to fail you. In cases of prolonged absences, it is the student's responsibility to contact the Dean's office and me. In these days of online classes “attend every class” means connecting to the Zoom meeting WITH YOUR CAMERA ON.” If you do not have your camera on, you are not going to be marked present.

**Class Participation:** Assigning 20% of the final grade to class participation is HUGE! I’ve often worried that I was grading on personality. That is to say that shy people were penalized while blabber-mouts (like me) benefited. So, here’s the way class participation will be graded.

You will start out with 50 points (out of 100). This, of course is an “F” but here’s how to improve it. For every class you attend, you will receive 1.5 points. This means that if there are 28 class meetings and you don’t miss any of them your class participation grade will grow to a 92 (an “A-“). For every class you miss, 3 points will be deducted. Each time you offer a contribution to the discussion, you will gain an additional 1.5 points. An example: Imagine a student who attends regularly missing only 2 classes. Imagine as well, that (s)he raises his/her hand 5 times during the course of the semester. Here’s the way it’ll play out:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting</th>
<th>50 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended 26 classes</td>
<td>39 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missed 2 classes</td>
<td>-6 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed 5 times</td>
<td>7.5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>90.5 points (which is an “A-“)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If all of this is just too complicated, I’ll make it simple. Attend class and raise your hand and you’ll do just fine.

So, be advised that the grade you get in class participation is completely within your control. Given that this counts as 20% of your final grade, I strongly advise you to take it seriously.
Office Hours: Given that we are not on campus the idea of “Office Hours” has changed. If you want / need to have a private talk, just let me know and we can set up a mutually convenient time. Please do not hesitate to ask to talk with me for whatever reason.

Study Groups: You each should find two other students with whom you will form a “Case Study Group.” In the past, I have assigned students to a given group but (to be perfectly blunt) the more serious students have begged me to let THEM pick their own partners. So, by the end of our first week of classes (Friday January 29, 2021) I will expect people to tell me who they are in a group with. Each group will have exactly 3 people in it. If there are any people who are not part of a group by the end of that day, I will assign them to a group.

Case studies: Each “Case Study Group” will be responsible for preparing responses for various scenarios. Sometimes, I will supply the scenario. Other times I will ask you to find one that interests you.

Country Presentation: One of the most significant presentations will be on the control of the media (including the internet and Social Media) in the countries assigned to your group. I expect this to be an in-depth consideration of the policies and the rationale of “your” pair of countries. These countries were chosen from the site of an organization named “Reporters Without Borders.” This is how they describe their organization:

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is the world’s biggest NGO specializing in the defense of media freedom, which we regard as the basic human right to be informed and to inform others.

On their web-site https://rsf.org/en they list 180 countries in the world ranked according to “media Freedom.” FYI – The United States is ranked 46th in the world.

You will be graded for presentations in two ways. First, a shared, over-all grade will be assigned to the whole presentation. Then, each member of the group will be given an additional grade based on their involvement in the presentation.

Final Paper: A final paper is required instead of an exam. The paper should consider some issue in computer ethics. You should find some article online that presents Ethical questions that you can write 5 pages on. The article should be no more than one month old.