

**CIS 490/590**  
**Computer Ethics**  
**Spring 2013**  
**Exercise #1**  
**ETHICAL ANALYSIS: What is it and how do we use it?**

DUE on Thursday April 11, 2:00 p.m. (beginning of class)

**This assignment is graded and will be handed in.**

**Deliverables: Bring two printed copies of your answers to class.** You will hand in one and use one for discussion during class on Thursday.

The purpose of this exercise is to understand the major approaches of ethical analysis and how ethical thinking is applied. We will practice on a particular case.

Examine the “Ethical Decision Making” webpage from Santa Clara University, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. Examine all the links on the topics “What is Ethics?” and “Decision Making” including all sub-topics regarding the different approaches.

<<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/>>

After reading and understanding these ideas, please read the case for this exercise called “IBM and the Holocaust”. It is found on Wikipedia at the following URL:

< [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM\\_and\\_the\\_Holocaust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_and_the_Holocaust)>

Please answer the following questions in a one-page format<sup>1</sup>:

- 1) Describe in the first paragraph what IBM did to raise ethical issues.
- 2) Describe in a second paragraph the ethical issues that are raised by the Wikipedia article.
- 3) In following paragraphs and using one of the approaches to ethical decision making, describe how you would decide whether IBM was ethically right or ethically wrong.

NOTE: The approach you use will be determined by groups according to last name. Please see the second page (reverse) of this assignment for your group.

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<sup>1</sup> Paper format is single-spaced and with 1” margins, 12 point Times font. At the top, please state your name, the Exercise #, and the date. The paper must follow professional standards for format and citation. It must have excellent spelling and grammar.

If your last name falls between these alphabetic letters, you will use that particular approach:

### **The Utilitarian Approach**

Al Ghamdi, Areej S  
Alur, Abhijit  
Chen, Jian M  
Cui, Haojie  
Diwan, Sahil  
Elliott, Paul H

### **The Common Good Approach**

Martin, Willis W  
Maurer, Kathryn E M  
Nguyen, Thuc D  
Nichols, Nathan S  
O'Connor, Dennis J  
Pletcher, Joseph R

### **The Rights Approach**

Embke, Alec J  
Ferris, Mark D  
Govyadinov, Pavel A  
Gustavson-Falck, Niklas L  
Hagen, Mackenzie R  
Huang, Heqing

### **The Fairness Approach**

Ingalls, James  
Lemkui, Amanda  
Leonard, Ryan  
Li, Beibei  
Liu, Mingyao  
Maier, Liam E

### **The Virtue Approach**

Price, Nicholas A  
Ross, David L  
Swartz, Jeremy D  
Wishingrad, Vanessa C  
Wulf, John W  
Yamada, Zachary A

**Policy on Graduate Student Grading:** Since this is a combined undergraduate/graduate class, graduate student answers on exercises and discussions will be held to higher expectations of quality.

**Policy on Late Assignments:** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date due. Since we will discuss the assignments at that time, you must be present in class to receive credit. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you think you have a legitimate reason to argue for an exception from this rule, make sure that you communicate it *prior* to the due date.

**Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:** Assignments constitute a large part of evaluation; hence it is crucial that they reflect your individual or group work. Any traces of plagiarism, i.e. copying someone else's work, will be dealt with according to the University regulations. On the other hand, I encourage you to share ideas and discuss the material in the lectures and textbook with other members of the class.