

**CIS 490/590: Computer Ethics**  
**Course Syllabus**  
 April 2, 2013

**Spring 2013:** TuTh 2:00-3:20 pm, 12 Pacific

**Prerequisites:** CIS junior/senior standing for undergraduates; graduate standing for graduates.

**Mailing alias:** cis490@cs.uoregon.edu

**Website** is <http://www.cs.uoregon.edu/classes/13S/cis490>.

**Instructor:** Prof. Sarah Douglas, 341 Deschutes, 541-346-3974, email:

douglas@cs.uoregon.edu. Office hours are TuTh 11:00-11:50 AM or by appointment.

**Description:** This course addresses ethical issues and social impacts of computing. Topics include privacy, intellectual property, freedom of expression, crime, software risk and reliability and the professional code of ethics.

**Texts:** The readings for the course will be available from free on-line material. See “Readings” on website for specific links.

| <i>Meeting</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Topic</i>  | <i>NOTES</i>    |
|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|
| Week 1         | 4/2         | Overview of Course, History of Information Age            | Lecture 1       |
|                | 4/4         | What is Computer Ethics? Discussion                       | Reading         |
| Week 2         | 4/9         | Ethics: Theories, Analysis and Decision making            | Lecture 2       |
|                | 4/11        | Practicing Ethical Decision Making: Exercise & Discussion | Exercise #1 due |
| Week 3         | 4/16        | Networks: Freedom of Expression                           | Lecture 3       |
|                | 4/18        | Case Study: Exercise & Discussion                         | Exercise #2 due |
| Week 4         | 4/23        | Privacy   | Lecture 4       |
|                | 4/25        | Case Study: Exercise & Discussion                         | Exercise #3 due |
| Week 5         | 4/30        | Intellectual Property                                     | Lecture 5       |
|                | 5/2         | Case Study: Exercise & Discussion                         | Exercise #4 due |
| Week 6         | 5/7         | Who owns information?                                     | Lecture 6       |
|                | 5/9         | Case Study: Exercise & Discussion                         | Exercise #5 due |
| Week 7         | 5/14        | Computer Security   | Lecture 7       |
|                | 5/16        | Case Study: Exercise & Discussion                         | Exercise #6 due |
| Week 8         | 5/21        | Software Reliability and Professional Ethics              | Lecture 8       |
|                | 5/23        | Case Study: Exercise & Discussion                         | Exercise #7 due |
| Week 9         | 5/28        | Global Issues of the Internet                             | Lecture 9       |
|                | 5/30        | Case Study: Exercise & Discussion                         | Exercise #8 due |
| Week 10        | 6/4         | AI, Robotics and Moral Machines                           | Lecture 10      |
|                | 6/6         | Case Study: Discussion                                    |                 |
| Week 11        | 6/11        | Final Project presentations 1:00pm (2 hours)<br>TUESDAY   |                 |

*Final Projects (25%).* There will be a final project done as a team effort.

*Discussion (25%).* There will be weekly discussions based on the homework exercises. All students are expected to participate.

*Exercises (50%).* Weekly assignments to be done individually. These are one-page papers based on the weekly readings. They will be turned in at the beginning of class in preparation for discussion. **NO LATE hand-ins without prior approval!!!!**

**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 2pm** 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 and 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.