CMPT 322W - D100 Professional Responsibility and Ethics

Instructor(s): John Edgar
SFU Surrey

Calendar Objective/Description:
The theory and practice of computer ethics. The basis for ethical decision-making and the methodology for reaching ethical decisions concerning computing matters will be studied. Writing as a means to understand and reason about complex ethical issues will be emphasized.

Instructor’s Objectives:
This course explores the theory and practice of computer ethics: the basis for ethical decision-making and the methodology for reaching ethical decisions concerning computing matters will be studied. This course will involve lectures by the instructor, lectures by visiting lecturers, in-class discussion, individual and group class presentations, and case analysis. Writing as a means to understand and reason about complex ethical issues will be emphasized. This is a W course.

Prerequisites:
- three CMPT units, 30 total units, and any lower division W course. Writing.

Topics:
- An overview of ethical theories
- Defining the field of computer ethics
- Professional responsibility
- Computers in the workplace
- Computing implications in medicine, education, and the government
- Free speech, privacy, and intellectual property issues
- Implications of artificial intelligence

Grading:
Writing assignments will include some or all of the following: analysis of case studies, online forum postings, shorter essays/analyses, and a final scholarly analysis of a chosen topic. Also, each student is expected to make at least one individual and/or group presentation during the term. A detailed marking scheme will be announced in class.

Required Books:
Ethics for the Information Age (7th edition), Michael J. Quinn, Addison-Wesley, 2017, 9780134296548

Academic Honesty Statement:
Academic honesty plays a key role in our efforts to maintain a high standard of academic excellence and integrity. Students are advised that ALL acts of intellectual dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the SFU Academic Honesty and Student Conduct Policies (http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html).