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 ).