CMPT 320 - D100 Social Implications

Instructor(s): Jacqueline Nelsen

Calendar Objective/Description:
Social Implications

Instructor's Objectives:
Computers and the Internet have an integral role in today's society. With their rapid transformation over the last 50+ years, society has seen vast growth in human productivity, communications and technological development. Society has also borne the social impacts, both positive and negative, in areas such as crime, security, mental health, anti-social behavior, threats to privacy, job displacement, and financial markets. This duality complicates social impacts, as fractions are created within society as a result of competing morals, values and beliefs. This course introduces novice computing scientists to their roles as "moral philosophers" during the Information Age. Tools such as critical thinking, Situational Analysis, PEST Analysis, as well as peer interaction and reviews will bring to light how our new forms of technology has benefited, as well as had a detrimental effect on society. This is not a W course, but writing will be used as a means to understand and reason about complex issues.

Prerequisites:
see go.sfu.ca

Topics:
- An overview of ethical theories
- Examination of social implications; crime, mental health, etc.
- Computing implications to free speech, privacy, and intellectual property issues
- Computing implications to medicine, education, and the government
- Artificial intelligence and data ethics

Grading:
To be discussed first week of classes.
Students must attain an overall passing grade on the weighted average of exams in the course in order to obtain a clear pass (C- or better).

Required Books:

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 ).