



**Al al-Bayt University  
Information Technology College  
Information Systems Department**

**904380 ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN COMPUTING  
First Semester 2012/2013**

**Course Catalog**

In an era where information technology changes constantly, a thoughtful response to these rapid changes requires a basic understanding of IT history, an awareness of current issues, and a familiarity with ethics. This course tries to introduce a balanced coverage of ethical problems and issues encountered by computer professionals in today's environment. This course will cover provocative issues such as social networking, government surveillance, privacy laws, computer security and reliability, and intellectual property from all points of view. Students are asked as they face these challenges to think critically and draw their own conclusions, which ultimately prepare them to become responsible, ethical users of future technologies.

**Textbook(s)**

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Title</b>     | Ethics for the Information Age   |
| <b>Author(s)</b> | Michael J. Quinn                 |
| <b>Edition</b>   | 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition          |
| <b>Publisher</b> | Prentice Hall/ Pearson Education |
| <b>Year</b>      | 2011                             |

**References**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>Books</b> | A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology<br>Sara Baase<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013<br>Prentice Hall/ Pearson Education<br>ISBN-10: 0132492679<br>ISBN-13: 9780132492676 |
|--------------|--|

**Instructor**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
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| <b>Email</b>        | <a href="mailto:M_kofahi@aabu.edu.jo">M_kofahi@aabu.edu.jo</a> .<br>Power Point Slides and course syllabus are available on:<br><a href="http://web2.aabu.edu.jo/staff_site/arabic/index.jsp?site_no=2123">http://web2.aabu.edu.jo/staff_site/arabic/index.jsp?site_no=2123</a> |

### Class Schedule and Locations

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Section 1:</b><br>Time(s): 9:00 – 10:00 Sun, Tue, Thu<br>Location: 284 مق | <b>Section 2:</b><br>Time(s): 12:00 – 13:00 Sun, Tue, Thu<br>Location: 290 مق |
|--|---|

### Office Hours

|   |
|---|
| Sun: 14:00 - 15:00, Tue: 10:00 -11:00, Thu: 11:00 – 12:00, Wed: 10:00 – 11:00 |
|---|

| Course Objectives  | Assessment Methods                                |
|--|---|
| After successfully completing this course, the student will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be familiar with some of the issues you may face as a member of a complex technological society.</li> <li>• Be able to discuss the benefits offered by computing technology in many different areas and the risks and problems associated these technologies.</li> <li>• Understand some social, legal, philosophical, political, constitutional and economical issues related to computers and the historical background of these issues</li> <li>• Be able to determine the impact of the privacy laws on information security policies.</li> <li>• Understand the issues related to intellectual freedom, intellectual property, and copyright law as they relate to electronic publishing.</li> <li>• Be able to determine and identify ethical procedures and behaviors in the organization related to information security.</li> <li>• Be able to identify issues of professional conduct in information technology case studies.</li> <li>• Learn the areas most impacted by ethical decisions by professionals in the computing field and will gain skills in making such decisions.</li> <li>• Apply theories of ethics to case situations in the context of organizational use of information technology.</li> <li>• Understand the ethical issues associated with gathering, storing and accessing genetic information in databases.</li> <li>• Recognize the differences in ethical codes of conduct in different cultures and countries.</li> </ul> | Exams<br>Homework and assignments<br>Team Project |

### Evaluation

| Assessment Tool                       | Expected Due Date      | Weight |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| First Exam                            | Sun 21-10-2012         | 20%    |
| Second Exam                           | Sun 25-11-2012         | 20%    |
| Term paper, Quizzes and Participation | TBA                    | 10%    |
| Final Exam                            | 30-12-2012 to 6-1-2013 | 50 %   |

| <b>Tentative Schedule</b> |   |                              |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Weeks</b>              | <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Readings</b>              |
| 1 -2                      | Introduction, Course Syllabus and Course Requirements<br>Catalysts for Change<br>Introduction to Ethics | Syllabus<br>Ch (1)<br>Ch (2) |
| 3 -4                      | Networked Communications  | Ch (3)                       |
| 4 -5                      | Intellectual Property   | Ch (4)                       |
| <b>5</b>                  | <b>First Exam (Sun 21-10-2012)</b>  | <b>Chapters 1,2,3, and 4</b> |
| 6 -7                      | Privacy   | Ch (5)                       |
| 8 -9                      | Computer and Network Security   | Ch (6)                       |
| 10 -11                    | Computer Reliability  | Ch (7)                       |
| <b>11</b>                 | <b>Second Exam (Sun 25-11-2012)</b>   | <b>Chapters 5,6, and 7</b>   |
| 12                        | Professional Ethics   | Ch (8)                       |
| 13-14                     | Work and Wealth   | Ch (9)                       |
| 15                        | Discussions of papers   |                              |
| <b>16</b>                 | <b>Final Exam ( 30-12-2012 to 6-1-2013)</b>   | <b>All chapters covered</b>  |

| <b>Policies</b>   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Attendance</b> | It is strongly recommended that students attend all course lectures. Also, university regulations mandate that students may not miss more than 10% of classes without valid excuses. In all cases, they may not miss more than 20% of classes. Should they do, they will not be allowed to take course exams. |
| <b>Homework</b>   | Students are expected to submit homework and assignments on time.   |
| <b>Exams</b>      | Exams will be close-book. Exam dates are subject to change according to departmental and university schedules.  |
| <b>Plagiarism</b> | You should not copy other people's work and claim it is yours. Detected plagiarism will be dealt with as per university regulations.  |

Last updated 12/09/2012