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Revised 8-9-2021

# BLAW 372

## Ethical and Legal Aspects of Managing Technology

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### Overview

Ethical and Legal Aspects of Managing Technology (BLAW 372).

*Prerequisite: Completion of the lower division writing requirement.* Virtually every aspect of business and management decision-making is touched by computing, information technology, and digital media. These influences are pervasive in private and public communication, transactions, and social interactions, and often serve as the infrastructure for organizations including commercial, banking and financial organizations, federal, state and local government and politics, utilities, national defense, educational organizations, and entertainment. This class will examine some of the ethical and legal issues associated with computers, information systems, and public and private networks, including the Internet, as they relate to management decision-making in a wide variety of areas. Some of the areas to be covered include intellectual property protection, business-related crime, viruses, privacy, security, reliability, work environments, liability, and artificial intelligence. Balancing of the needs and desires of individuals or groups against those of other individuals or groups (including business, economic, professional, individual, governmental and social interests) within a business context will be a focus of the class.

### Coursework

This course is fully online, asynchronous, which means that we will not have face-to-face class meeting, neither in-person nor on Zoom. All work will be done online in a Canvas course and with the use of the textbook which is available in hard copy or online.

The assignments are listed below. They include reading from the text, online videos, a midterm exam, and writing case briefs, discussions, and a final paper. If you have questions about the assigned material, please ask. Please note that on Canvas, [Course Summary](#) contains only those assignments that need to be submitted. There are additional reading and briefing assignments, so please be sure to follow this syllabus.

### Submitting Assignments

All assignments must be submitted on Canvas by the due date. Emails will not be accepted for any reason, so don't wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment only to be frustrated by a technical difficulty. **You may not copy from any source, including the textbook.** Your work must be your own, and turnitin will report the amount of your final paper that is copied.

### How to Brief a Case - IRAC

To brief cases, use the "IRAC" format, which is explained on Canvas. Most briefs that you prepare for class will be about one typewritten page. If you choose to handwrite them, they will be longer. Please note that I have

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## Fall 2021 – Section 13942 Online – Asynchronous (no class meetings)

**Instructor:** Professor Carr  
**E-Mail:** [nanci.carr@csun.edu](mailto:nanci.carr@csun.edu)  
**Phone:** 818/677-3984

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 11am-2pm (on Zoom) and by appointment

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### Textbook

A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology, 5th Edition, ISBN-13: 978-0134615271. Available at the bookstore and online.



### Professionalism

You are expected to show respect for your classmates, your professor, and the university, and not to engage in disruptive behavior. For any video virtual class meeting, you must be dressed, and do not wear any type of Halloween mask that may startle classmates. If you are eating, please turn off your video. You may be asked to leave a video meeting for disruptive behavior, and you may be required to speak with the Student Conduct Coordinator before being invited to another video class meeting. Please maintain a professional tone in both online chat sessions and in emails to your professor and classmates.



### Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated on any assignment, quiz, or exam. **You may not copy from any source, including the textbook.** Your work must be your own, and turnitin will report on the amount of your turned-in briefs that are copied. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

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### Everyone is welcome!

All students are welcome in this class regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, political stance, veteran status, religion, citizenship, or immigration status. If your name and/or pronouns

specific requirements for your briefs that may be different than the what you have experienced in other classes. Please be sure to follow the requirements as I have described them on Canvas. Stating “I’ve always done it this way” will not be a successful strategy. It is an important skill to be able to adapt, just like on the job where you adapt to different managers or clients.

## Mission Statement, Learning Goals and Objectives

Our mission is to equip students with the academic knowledge, problem solving, analytical and professional skills in the areas of business law, business ethics, and real estate necessary to achieve their personal and professional goals.

The course learning objectives are:

1. Students will gain an understanding of the legal and ethical aspects of technology within the context of operating or working for a business.
2. Students will gain a heightened awareness of the ethical and social implications of modern technology, on both an individual and organizational level.
3. Students will develop critical thinking skills in evaluating and analyzing ethical dilemmas and legal issues using a structured decision-making approach.
4. Students will be able to identify and apply a number of established ethical approaches/philosophies (e.g., utilitarianism, moral rights, virtue ethics) for logically evaluating the morality of a given situation involving technology.

## General Instructions on Taking the Exam

The midterm exam is composed of one or more fact patterns that will require you to identify ethical and legal issues and apply ethical approaches and the law in determining the outcome of hypothetical cases.

Answer each question fully, clearly, and in the order given. Mere conclusions receive no credit. Thoughtful arguments and detailed analysis are more important than the conclusion that you reach.



## Technology Requirements

Since this is an online course, reliable internet is required. (Please see <https://www.csun.edu/it/internet-connectivity-users-who-do-not-have-it> for information on acquiring internet service.) You’ll also need Microsoft Word (available at no charge from CSUN) for submitting written assignments. You will need access to a computer or tablet; please contact the bookstore for purchasing and borrowing options if needed.



It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly for announcements and other information related to the course.

## Legal Advice

**Faculty members may not provide legal advice or legal services to students.** If you need legal advice or information regarding the law, resources can be found on the Department of Business Law web page at <http://www.csun.edu/blaw/student-resources>.

differ from those in SOLAR, please let me know.

## Grading

Your grade is based upon assignments, quizzes, and two exams. Grade allocation is as follows:

<b>Assignments:</b>	100 points
<b>Midterm exam:</b>	45 points
<b>Final paper:</b>	<u>55 points</u>
<b>Total:</b>	200 points

Grading Scale: A-/A – 90% and above  
B-/B/B+ – 80% - 89%  
C-/C/C+ – 70% - 79%  
D-/D/D+ – 60% - 69%

Plus/minus grading may be used. The grade reached after calculating the grades above will be the minimum grade you can receive in the course. At the professor's sole discretion, your course grade may be raised based on effort and/or improvement.

**\*\*Late work will not be accepted.\*\***

## Disability Resources and Educational Services

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office <http://www.csun.edu/dres> or the National Center on Deafness (NCOD) <http://www.csun.edu/ncod>. The DRES office is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110 and can be reached at 818/677-2684. NCOD is located on Bertrand Street in Jeanne Chisholm Hall and can be reached at 818/677-2611. If you would like to discuss your need for accommodations with me, please contact me to set up an appointment.



## Questions

**If you have any questions about the material contained in this syllabus, please contact Professor Carr.**

Your continued enrollment in the course evidences your agreement to the policies contained herein.

**This syllabus is subject to change as circumstances require. I will notify you of any such changes.**

**Course Topics and Assignments - Tentative**  
Please note that all online assignments are available on Canvas.

Week (from Mon- Sun)	Date	Topics	Reading videos, etc. Add'l materials may be posted in the modules	Work due (Unless otherwise noted, all work is due on Sundays at 5pm)
One	8/30-9/5	Introduction	<b>Read:</b> • Syllabus • Plagiarism materials • How to Brief a Case <b>Watch:</b> • Plagiarism video • Truths/myths about online education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus and Canvas Scavenger Hunt</li> <li>• Flipgrid - Introduce Yourself</li> </ul>
Two	9/6-12	Change and Unexpected Developments	Read Ch. 1, sections 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion 1</li> </ul>
Three	9/13-19	Ethical Concepts and Theories	Finish Ch. 1, section 1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion 2</li> </ul>
Four	9/20-26	Privacy	Read Ch. 2, sections 2.1 through 2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz</li> </ul>
Five	9/27-10/3	Protecting Privacy	Finish Ch. 2, sections 2.5 through 2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion 3</li> </ul>
Six	10/4-10	Crime and Security	Read Ch. 5, sections 5.1 through 5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion 4</li> </ul>
Seven	10/11-17	Crime and Security	Finish Ch. 5, sections 5.5 through 5.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz</li> </ul>
Eight	10/18-24	Professional Ethics and Responsibilities	Read Ch. 9	TBA
Nine	10/25-31	Catchup, review and take Midterm		TBA
Ten	11/1-7	Impact on employment	Read Ch. 6	TBA
Eleven	11/8-14	Evaluating and Controlling Technology	Read Ch. 7	TBA
Twelve	11/15-21	Errors, Failures, and Risks	Read Ch. 8	TBA
Thirteen	11/22-28	Freedom of Speech	Read Ch. 3, sections 3.1 through 3.4	TBA
Fourteen	11/29-12/5	Freedom of Speech	Read Ch. 3, sections 3.5 through 3.7	TBA
Fifteen	12/6-12	To be announced		TBA
Final Exam week	12/13-17	Final paper due by 5pm on 12/17		