**BLAW 372 Fall 2020**

Ethical & Legal Aspects of Managing Technology

Online Course

**Professor:** Wade M. Chumney, J.D., M.Sc.

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Office: JH 3252

Office Hours: Wed 12:00-3:00 and By Appointment

**Pre-Requisite:** Completion of Lower Division writing requirement

**Catalog Course Description:** 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.

**Required Text:** Reynolds, George W. (2019). Ethics in Information Technology (6th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage,: ISBN: 978-1-337-40587-4.

**Office Hours:** I will be available on Wednesdays from 12:00-3:00 and by appointment.

**Contact:** [wade.chumney@csun.edu](mailto:wade.chumney@csun.edu)I am usually able to answer emails within 48 hours. Office 818-677-6979 – I may take up to 5 days to respond to voicemails if I am not in the office, so email me instead.

**Technology:**

* **Regular login to Canvas is required** <https://canvas.csun.edu/>
* This course meets online. Before you enroll, take CSUN's Student Online Readiness Survey to see whether your learning preferences and technology skills are likely to help you succeed as an online learner. If you are not sure how successful you will be in a Hybrid or Online course, then take the quiz. [https://www.csustan.edu/academics/online-programs/online-readiness-self-](https://www.csustan.edu/academics/online-programs/online-readiness-self-assessment) [assessment](https://www.csustan.edu/academics/online-programs/online-readiness-self-assessment)

**Program and Course Goals/Objectives:**

At the conclusion of the course, you will have learned a substantial amount regarding business ethics. You will have improved your writing and reasoning skills, and your knowledge of business ethics practice with an emphasis on practical applications.

In order to achieve these objectives, it is important for you to read the assigned material before class.

The Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) for the major (B.S. in Business Administration) are:

1. SLO1 - Communication: The student will write professional business reports, deliver strong oral presentations, and create effective visual materials.
2. SLO2 - Critical Thinking/Problem Solving: The student will identify and analyze problems and devise appropriate solutions using qualitative and quantitative techniques.
3. SLO3 - Ethics: The student will identify ethical dilemmas, analyze them from

multiple perspectives, develop solutions, and support their decisions.

1. SLO4 - Global Context and Diversity: The student will recognize and evaluate the role of diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism in the global business environment.
2. SLO5 - Cross-Disciplinary Knowledge: The student will demonstrate proficiency in

the functional areas of business as well as the ability to synthesize and apply this knowledge across disciplines.

This course helps you to reach SLOs 1, 3, and 5 in addition to meeting the following four

**Course Learning Objectives (CLOs):**

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.

**Learning Objectives (relation to SLOs and CLOs):**

* 1. Acquire knowledge of ethical principles and demonstrate the ability to analyze real world ethical dilemmas (SLO3, CLO1)
  2. Communicate beliefs and values, through the demonstration of effective written and

oral communication skills, that will lead to the understanding and development in your professional and personal life (SLO1)

* 1. Link the importance of your work with the overall well-being of society and the proper functioning of markets (SLO3)

**Assessments (relation to Learning Objectives):**

1. Final Paper - essay (A, C)
2. Weekly papers - research/write a paper on assigned business ethics topics (B, C)

**Activities (relation to Assessments):**

1. Introduction video - you will prepare a short video introducing yourself (I)
2. Online quizzes - encourage and verify reading to facilitate class discussions (I, II)
3. Online modules - facilitates discussions through peer-sharing (I, II)
4. Reading text and online resources - provides basis for discussion and fundamental understating of field and concepts (I - II)

**Grade Determination:**

Your grade will fall into one of the following categories:

GRADE                         DEFINITION                             GRADE POINTS

A                                    Outstanding                                 4.0

B                                    Very Good                                   3.0

C                                    Average                                       2.0

D                                    Barely Passing                             1.0

F                                     Failure                                         0

Your final grade will be calculated as described below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignments** | **Percent of Final Grade** |
| Quizzes | 20% |
| Discussion Posts | 20% |
| Weekly Papers | 20% |
| Final Paper | 40% |

This course has discussion posts, quizzes, weekly papers, and a final paper.

As a rule, I do not accept late assignments, so put all the due dates in your calendar at the beginning of the semester.

**Weekly Papers:**

You will be assigned weekly papers (1-2 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman Font) that will provide you with better insight into aspects of ethics and law of technology. These papers will be on a topic found within the weekly Modules, which are available Thursdays after 4:00pm. The writing rubric for assessing your papers can be found in Canvas.

**Online Modules and Quizzes:**

The online weekly modules will become available on Thursdays at 4:00pm. All work within them must be completed by the following Wednesday at midnight. Online modules and out-of-class reading provide the basis of theory in the course. Reading prior to class should provide you with the “what” of the course. Lectures will be used to emphasize major topics and explore concepts in greater detail. This will be used to provide you with the “how” and “why.”

Online quizzes are to be completed prior to Wednesday at midnight, preceding the class in which the topic will be discussed. You will only have one opportunity to complete each timed quiz.

The module responses are timed; therefore, you should be certain that you are prepared to answer the questions correctly. Failure to answer all questions in the online modules correctly within the allotted time will result in a reduced grade for the module.

**Discussion Forums and Participation:**

Learning how to properly synthesize information and respond to opinions of others requires constant observation of changing trends and news. In order to assist in discerning ethical and legal issues with technology. You will post and respond to classmates in the online forum. Original posts may consist of articles, with references, relating to course topics and include a summary and analysis. Responses should be thoughtful and provide references. Differing opinions are great, but you must be sure to provide support for your opinion and be respectful of each other.

**Final Paper:**

You will be assigned a Final Paper that is 12-20 pages in length due at the end of the semester. The exact due date and details will be posted in Canvas.

**University Attendance Policy:**

You are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who are absent from the first 2 meetings of a class that meets more than once a week or from the first meeting of a class that meets once a week lose the right to remain on the class roll and must formally withdraw from the class, following University procedures and deadlines. Failure to formally withdraw from a class will result in the instructor assigning to the student a grade of “WU” (Unauthorized Withdrawal), which, in computing a student’s GPA, counts as a grade of “F.” <http://www.csun.edu/catalog/policies/attendance-class-attendance/>

This is an online course requiring you to login to Canvas regularly.

**University Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**

The maintenance of academic integrity and quality education is the responsibility of each student within this university and the California State University system. Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus is listed in Section 41301, Title V, California Code of Regulations, as an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended, or given a less severe disciplinary sanction. Academic dishonesty is an especially serious offense, diminishes the quality of scholarship, and defrauds those who depend upon the integrity of the campus programs. Such dishonesty includes:

Cheating Fabrication

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty Plagiarism

Please review the entire policy for a full description.

<http://www.csun.edu/catalog/policies/academic-dishonesty/>

**Disability Resources and Educational Services:**

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office or the National Center on Deafness (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. <http://www.csun.edu/dres/index.php>

If you would like to discuss your need for accommodations with me, please contact me to set up an appointment. I cannot help if I do not know you need help.

**Statements regarding sexual misconduct disclosures and maintaining a respectful learning environment:**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining a safe and respectful space to express their reasoned opinions. Professional courtesy and consideration for our classroom community are especially important with respect to topics dealing with differences in race, color, gender and gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, disability, and age.

In this class, you will discuss and write about ethical dilemmas. Please keep the following in mind as you develop new topics throughout the course of the semester: consider all of your writing for this class as public. You are encouraged to write on topics that matter to you, and while this can elicit writing and reflection that may be deeply personal, you must always be prepared that you may be asked to share your work with others.

As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help maintain a safe learning environment on our campus. In the event that you choose to write, speak or otherwise disclose about having experienced sexual misconduct/sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking and specify that this violence occurred while you or the perpetrator were a CSUN student, federal and state laws require that I, as a “responsible employee,” notify our campus Title IX coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator will contact you to inform you of your rights and options as a survivor and connect you with support resources, including possibilities for holding accountable the person who harmed you. Know that you will not be forced to share information and your level of involvement will be your choice.

CSUN’s Title IX Coordinator is: Susan Hua

University Hall, Room 285 Phone: (818) 677-2077

[susan.hua@csun.edu](mailto:susan.hua@csun.edu)

If you do not want the Title IX Coordinator notified, instead of disclosing the experience to me, you can speak confidentially with our Campus Care Advocate.\*

CSUN’s Campus Care Advocate is: Paria Zandi

(818) 677-7492

[paria.zandi@csun.edu](mailto:paria.zandi@csun.edu)

Klotz Student Health Center Room 140G

For more information regarding your university rights and options as a survivor of sexual misconduct/sexual violence, please visit the University’s Title IX website at: <http://www.csun.edu/shinalight>

\*Note: If it is determined that an alleged perpetrator poses an imminent threat to the

broader campus community or if person(s) under 18 years of age are involved, our Campus are Advocate is required to notify our Department of Police Services.

**Course Schedule:**

The following schedule will be observed as closely as possible. This syllabus is subject to change. I will make every effort to notify you in advance about any changes. Advance notice will be provided if modification of the schedule is necessary. As a rule, I do not accept late assignments, so put all the due dates in your calendar at the beginning of the semester.

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| **Week** | **Topic** | **Guiding Question** | **Work Due** |
| 1 | Ethics & Law of Technology Overview | What is the purpose of technology? | Watch Welcome Video (click white link)  Read Syllabus  Create Introduction Video  Read the following:  <https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1060&context=phi>  Submit Weekly Paper |
| 2 | Technology & The Good Life | Does technology help us to experience a good life? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Appendix A beginning on p. 397  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper |
| 3 | A Brief Introduction to Morality | What answers has humanity provided as to how one should act? | Watch Video Lectures  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper |
| 4 | Conscious (Business) Ethics: The Practical Guide to Wisdom | How do I practically engage in right action? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 1  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 5 | An Overview of Ethics | What actions can IT organizations take to effectuate ethical behavior? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 2  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 6 | Ethics for IT Workers and IT Users | How can ethics be promoted among various IT stakeholders? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 3  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 7 | Cyberattacks and Cybersecurity | What technological dangers and protections exist within the IT context? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 4  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 8 | Privacy | What are the technological issues related to privacy? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 5  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 9 | Freedom of Expression | What are the legal and ethical issues inherent in technology and free speech? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 6  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 10 | Intellectual Property | What protections does the law provide for intellectual creations? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 7  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 11 | Ethical Decisions in Software Development | What steps can I take in order to ethically develop computer software? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 8  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 12 | **No Class: Veteran’s Day Holiday** |  | Work on Your Final Paper |
| 13 | The Impact of Information Technology on Society | What effects has technology had upon various aspects of our culture? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 9  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 14 | **THANKSGIVING BREAK** |  |  |
| 15 | Social Media | What are some ethical issues that arise within the social media context? | Watch Video Lectures  Read Chapter 10  Post in Discussion Forum  Submit Weekly Paper  Take Quiz |
| 16 | Ethics of IT Organizations | What are some ethical issues faced by organizations found within the IT industry? | Prepare your Final Paper for Submission |
|  | **FINAL PAPER DUE** | **Thursday, December 10 at Midnight** | **Submit Final Paper** |