

COMP 4620 – Professional Practice in Computer Science

Calendar Description: Ethical, moral, and legal issues in the development of computer systems; standards of practice; implications of advanced computer systems.

Prerequisite: COMP 2140

Outline

- 1) Introduction to ethics (1 week)
Ethics vs. morality
- 2) Rationale for studying ethics (1 week)
- 3) Philosophical concepts and theories (2 weeks)
Deontology, Teleology, Application
- 4) Professional Ethics (3 weeks)
Professionals and professionalism, Standards of practice, Codes of ethics, Professionalism considerations in Computer Science, Intellectual property considerations
- 5) Privacy (2 weeks)
What privacy is, why privacy is important, Privacy considerations in Computer Science
- 6) Freedom (1 week)
Censorship and freedom of expression
- 6) Social responsibilities (1 week)
Recognizing the need for computer scientists in being more involved in societal issues
- 7) Case studies (1 week)
- 8) Discussions of current events (1 week)

Case studies and current events are covered in on-going manner throughout the course.

Text: none. A number of online readings (net and journal articles) will be assigned.