

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title Computer Ethics

Course #: CSC* 180

Course Description: 3 Credits. A study in the ethics of computer usage as it applies to the Internet. Issues discussed include privacy, speech, and regulation of the Internet, security, intellectual property and codes of conduct. Case studies in each area will be examined.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: ENG* 101 or Consent of the Instructor

Goals: Students are expected to

- 1) gain an understanding of the issues and concepts of moral reasoning.
- 2) explore ethical theories and their impact on the computing field.
- 3) develop an appreciation of the relation between ethics and other theoretical and empirical inquiries
- 4) enhance the abilities to read, think, and write clearly in a philosophical way
- 5) sharpen general interpretive and analytical skills

Outcomes Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- 1) describe widely accepted theories of ethics including
 - a) Utilitarianism,
 - b) Contractarianism
 - c) Pluralism
- 2) evaluate the major strength and weaknesses of major theories of ethics
- 3) analyze ethical dilemmas which occur in the computing field
 - a) develop decisions using major ethical theoretical approaches
 - b) develop supporting arguments to support their decisions
- 4) apply critical thinking in addressing new cases and issues as they arise

College Policies

Plagiarism: Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty are not tolerated at Northwestern Connecticut Community College. Violators of this policy will be subject to sanction. Please refer to your "Student Handbook" under "Policy on Student Rights," the Section entitled "Student Discipline," Section 2, Item 10 (pg. 45 in the 2004-2005 edition) for additional information.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented learning, physical, or psychiatric disabilities. Students should notify Roseann Dennerlein, the Counselor for Students with Disabilities. She is located at 56 Park Place East, in the Center for Student Development. Her phone number is 860-738-6307 (V/TTY) and her email is rdennerlein@nwcc.commnet.edu.

School Cancellations: If snowy or icy driving conditions cause the postponement or cancellation of classes, announcements will be made on local radio and television stations. Students may also call the College directly at (860) 738-6464 to hear a recorded message concerning any inclement weather closings. Students are urged to exercise their own judgment if road conditions in their localities are hazardous.