PHIL 1410: Technology Ethics

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 3
Lab Hours/Week: *
OJT Hours/Week: *
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

This course meets Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) goal area 9. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to computers and their impact on ethics in our society. Students explore the history of computers, the impact of networks and the internet, computer privacy and security factors, effects of computer viruses and worms, internet scams and safety concerns, intellectual property rights, computer ethics, the effects on emotional and physical health, environmental concerns, and emerging technology. The ethical implications of each aforementioned topic is analyzed and students are encouraged to share their viewpoint.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/25/2008 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Study the history of computers and the impact of other technology on ethics in society.
2. Develop an internet timeline marking key moments and placing personal milestones in perspective.
3. Understand various online identity issues including anonymity and identity theft.
4. Describe current virus, malware and other data protection issues.
5. Understand the ethical use of open source software, shareware and other media.
6. Analyze the issue of Net Neutrality.
7. Theorize new ethical issues that will arise with emerging technologies.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. The learner will understand the history of computers and the internet, and how computer advancements have impacted ethics in our society.
2. The learner will analyze the negative side of the computer world (viruses, internet scams, software piracy, and cyber stalking), discuss questionable uses (cookies, spam, and other marketing activities), and contrast these with computer ethics and intellectual property rights.
3. The learner will research the impact of technology on physical health, emotional health, and the environment. Learner will also extrapolate possible uses of new and upcoming technology and their ethical use.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
2. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
3. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
4. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted