CS 495 - Legal, Social, Ethical, and Economic Issues in Computing

1. Course number and name: CS 495 - Legal, Social, Ethical, and Economic Issues in Computing

2. Credits and contact hours: 3.000 Credit Hours, 3.000 Lecture hours

3. Instructor or course coordinator: Ewa Syta

   a. other supplemental materials
      o The course uses Blackboard/Vista for homework assignments, handouts, grade book, and lecture notes.

5. Specific course information
   a. (Catalog Description): Legal, Social, Ethical, and Economic Issues in Computing. Topics include privacy, security, law of torts in computing, and legal protection of software.
   b. prerequisites or co-requisites: Permission of instructor
   c. indicate whether a required, elective, or selected elective course in the program: Elective

6. Specific goals for the course
   a. specific outcomes of instruction, ex. The student will be able to explain the significance of current research about a particular topic.

Expected Learning Outcomes
Outcome 1: Understand some legal, social, ethical, and economical issues related to computers and the historical background of these issues;
Outcome 2: Discuss the benefits offered by computing technology in many different areas and the risks and problems associated these technologies;
Outcome 3: Be familiar with some of the issues you may face as a member of a complex technological society;
Outcome 4: Have an increased awareness of current social and legal developments related to computers.

Expected Skill Outcomes
During this course students will gain experience in:
Skill 1: Giving an effective 20-30 minute oral presentation to a group of around 30 people;
Skill 2: Conducting a group research project and writing a research paper;
Skill 3: Critical and analytical writing;
Skill 4: Exploring the arguments on all sides of a controversial issue, and argue convincingly for any position;
Skill 5: Applying the techniques, tools and topics from the course in decision making personal and professional situations.

b. explicitly indicate which of the student outcomes listed in Criterion 3 or any other outcomes are addressed by the course.

Outcome (d): An ability to function effectively on teams to accomplish a common goal.
Outcome (e): An understanding of professional, ethical, and social responsibilities.
Outcome (f): An ability to communicate effectively.
Outcome (g): An ability to analyze the impact of computing on individuals, organizations, and society, including ethical, legal, security, and global policy issues.

7. Brief list of topics covered

1. Ethics
2. Privacy and Computer Technology
3. Freedom of Speech, Censorship and Anonymity on the Internet
4. Intellectual Property
5. Technology and Work
6. Digital Crime
7. Evaluating and Controlling Technology
8. Errors, Failures and Risks in Computer Systems
9. Professional Ethics and Responsibilities

8. Expected Performance Criteria

An important part of the course will be discussing different issues and debating various points of view. There will be graded discussion assignments which will be used to conduct in-class discussions and write individual reports. For final group project students will investigate and report on some issue related to the course material and will to deliver a paper and a presentation. Individual learning portfolio will ensure that students become familiar with current developments related to the material of our course. Students will demonstrate their understanding of covered material through two exams (midterm and final).