

San José State University
School/Department
Phil 134 , Computers, Ethics, and Society, Fall, 15

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: (Elizabeth Sonnier)

Office Location: (FOB 210)

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Office Hours: (Sunday through Friday)

Prerequisites: (Completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing.
For students who begin continuous enrollment at a CCC or a CSU in Fall 2005 or later, completion of, or corequisite in a 100W course is required.)

GE/SJSU Studies Category: (GE Area V: Culture, Civilization & Global Understanding)

Course Format

Online course, requiring access to a computer.

Faculty Web Page

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Study of the nature of privacy in a technologically interconnected world; the role of computer technologies in the exercise of the human intellect and imagination with respect to freedom of expression and the social good; rights and responsibilities of intellectual property ownership.

Learning Outcomes (Required) and Course Goals (Optional)

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department.

Upon successful completion of this course:

1. Students shall be able to compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.
2. Students shall be able to identify historical contexts of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and their influence on American culture.

- Students shall be able to explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- CS Program Outcome E: Demonstrate, through discussion case analyses and exam case analyses, an understanding of professional, ethical, legal, security and social issues and responsibilities of software design and use.
- CS Program Outcome G: Demonstrate, through discussion case analyses and exam case analyses, an ability to analyze the local and global impact of computing on individuals, organizations, and society

Required Texts/Readings

- All readings are available on Canvas as HTML, or as MS Word or Adobe files.
- Also readings of cases on the Internet and in the news, linked on Canvas.

Grading Policy

Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department. Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C - not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses.

Completion of, or co- - registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.” See [University Policy S14-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf>.

“All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Course Requirements	Percent of Grade
3 Quizzes	05 %
3 Case study discussions	30 %
Midterm	10 %
1 Reading discussion	10 %
1 6-8 page rough draft of term paper	20 %
1 8-10 edited term paper	10 %
Final Exam	15 %

GRADING SCALE

100-95	A
94-90	A minus
89-88	B+
87-84	B
83-80	B minus
79-77	C+
76-74	C
73-70	C minus
69-67	D+

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Course Requirements	Student Learning Objective
3 Quizzes	GELO 2
3 Case study discussions	GELO 2, 3
Midterm Essay	GELO 1, 3
1 Reading discussion	GELO 1, 2, 3
1 6-8 page rough draft of term paper	GELO 1, 2, 3
1 8-10 edited term paper	GELO 1, 2, 3
Final Exam	CS POG E, G

- **Quizzes:** 3 short true/false quizzes in initial weeks: one on rights theory, one on utilitarianism, and one on interpreting case links.
- **Exams:** Midterm & Final Exams will be 1/4 multiple choice, 1/4 true or false, and half essay; and will be based on the notes, reading assignments, and analysis of case studies.
- **Case Study Discussions:** Students will discuss 3 ethical cases with assigned team classmates. Each discussion will be an ethical analysis of some very recent case posted under [Case Links](#). Students will be assigned to a team by the end of the 2nd week of class. Discussions will follow the format for case analyses, and will be graded according to questioning insights, application of ethical theories to cases, and quality (depth) and quantity of posts.
- **Reading Discussions:** Students will discuss one of the assigned readings with assigned team classmates. Reading Discussions will be graded according to questioning insights, understanding of readings, and quality (depth) of posts.
- **Rough Draft of Term Paper:** The Rough Draft of the Term Paper will be a typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 6 to 7 page ethical analysis of a recent (last 2 months) case you choose, and follow the format for communication of ethical analyses [format will be given early in the semester]. The paper will be graded on content and logic (70% of the grade) and style, format, and grammar (30%of the grade).
- **Edited Term Paper:** The term paper should be typed, double-spaced, 8 to 10 pages in length, and will be a revision of the rough draft, according to comments for revision provided by me on your graded rough draft. The final version of the term paper will be graded on content and logic (50% of the grade); style, format, and grammar (10%of the grade); and quality of revision (40%of the grade).

Level of Work Needed

If you logon and work 4 days a week, with a weekly total of 7 hours, you should do okay. Early in the week you should read materials and prepare to approach the discussions, etc. Most of your team discussion points are divided across different topics for each case analysis: Choosing a case & Dividing roles, Choosing Theories, Contributing your part of the case analysis outline, and editing the assignment Result. These different topics have specific due dates, (usually Wednesday or Thursday, and Sunday) after which that discussion part will not be available and you lose those specific points for that specific topic. To reasonably pass you will need to do a minimum of 3 hours of discussion posts/reading posts per week. In addition, you should spend time reading Instructions, Notes, and Readings.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Writing Center (Optional)

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

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Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/20 to 8/23	Quiz 1, Rights, 1.5 percent.
1		Read Intro, and Hobbes and Locke excerpts
2	8/24 to 8/30	Quiz 2, Utilitarianism, 1.5 percent and Quiz 3, Cases v Links, 2 percent.
2		Read Bentham excerpt and Utilitarianism notes
3	8/31 to 9/6	First Team Case Discussion
3		Read Kant excerpt and IEP on John Rawls and Kant, Rawls, and Justice notes
4	9/7 to 9/13	First Team Case Discussion, 10 percent
4		Read Aristotle excerpt and Singer, on Care and Virtues and Caring notes
5	9/14 to 9/20	Second Team Case Discussion
5		Read Marx and Engels excerpts
6	9/21 to 9/27	Second Team Case Discussion, 10 percent
		Read Mueller et al on Global Internet Governance
7	9/28 to 10/4	Third Team Case Discussion
		Read Nasr on Islam and Technology
8	10/5 to 10/11	Third Team Case Discussion, 10 percent
9	10/12 to 10/18	Midterm Exam, 10 percent
9		Review all readings and notes for midterm
10	10/19 to 10/25	Fall Break
11	10/26 to 11/1	Begin Rough Draft
11		Read Peslak on accountability and Atkinson on accountability
12	11/2 to 11/8	Rough Draft
12		Read Prasad on accountability and Oloko on accountability
13	11/9 to 11/15	Rough Draft due 25 percent
14	11/16 to 11/22	Reading Discussion
14		Read Lawler, Problem of Technology.
15	11/23 to 11/29	Reading Discussion 10 percent
15		Read Lawler, Problem of Technology.
16	11/30 to 12/9	Edit Term Paper, 10 percent
Final Exam	12/17	Online, all day, 15 percent

