

San José State University
School/Department
Phil 134 , Computers, Ethics, and Society, Fall, 18

Course and Contact Information

- Instructor:** (Elizabeth Sonnier)
- Office Location:** online
- Email:** (elizabeth.sonnier@sjsu.edu)
- 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

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 %
1 Link analysis discussion	10 %
2 Case study discussions	20 %
1 Individual case study	05 %
Midterm	10 %
1 Reading discussion	05 %
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.
- **Understanding Links Discussion:** teams will be given practice in critical reading of case links. Students will practice distinguishing links from cases and resources by learning to distinguish probability from possibility; and by learning to distinguish facts from assumptions, speculation and misinformation.
- **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.
- **Individual Case Study:** Students will provide an ethical analysis of some very recent case posted under [Case Links](#). This individual assignment will follow the outline format for theory argumentation, and will be graded according to adherence and understanding of the outline, and depth of application to the case.
- **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

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

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Tentative Course Schedule

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