



# Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business

## MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

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Office Hours (Lyle):            8:30 – 11:00 M W F,  
   9:30 – 11:00 T Th,  
   Other times available by appointment  
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**DEPARTMENT: Computer Science and Information Systems**

**COURSE PREFIX: CSC    COURSE NUMBER: 540            CREDIT HOURS: 3**

- I.      Title:** Social, Ethical, and Professional Issues in the Information Age
- II.     Course Description and Prerequisites:** This course emphasizes social, ethical, legal, technical and professional issues encountered in the information age including the historical and social context, professional responsibilities, risks and liabilities, and intellectual property. Prerequisite: senior standing.
- III.    Course Objectives:** The course will rely heavily on the student's written and oral communication skills. On completion of the course, the student should be able to write and give an oral presentation of his/her:
- Personal position pertaining to all facets of the course content
  - Reaction to various cases surrounding computer usage in light of ethics and the law
  - Opinion on practices relating to use of technology and individual / human rights (e.g. privacy, health, education, defense, employment, etc.)
- IV.    Content Outline:** The chapter titles from the required textbook are
1. Catalysts for Change
  2. Introduction to Ethics
  3. Networked Communications
  4. Intellectual Property
  5. Information Privacy
  6. Privacy and the Government
  7. Computer and Network Security
  8. Computer Reliability
  9. Professional Ethics
  10. Work and Wealth
  - Appendix A: Plagiarism

We will discuss these chapters as well as investigate the following topics:

- Intellectual Property - (information as protectable property)
- Trade Secrets
- Copyrights and IT
- Trademark, Licensing, and Contract Law
- Software Patent Law
- Techniques in software engineering – UML, Structured walkthroughs, Extreme programming
- Software Risk and Product Liability (goods vs. services)
- Offensive Content on the Internet and Free Speech
- Issues of Liability
- Managing Your Career

**V. Instructional Activities:** Class discussion of assigned readings, group research and problem-solving activities, group reporting, and individual presentations.

**VI. Field, Clinical, and/or Laboratory Experiences:** None.

**VII. Texts and Resources:** Ethics for the Information Age, 6th Edition, Michael J. Quinn, Pearson Education, Inc, 2015. Other resources maybe linked from the instructors' course web pages.

**VIII. Grading Procedures:**

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Tests, Quizzes, Exams          | 30% |
| Class Participation            | 10% |
| Group project & presentation   | 15% |
| Individual paper (10-15 pages) | 15% |
| Individual presentation        | 10% |
| Other Homework Assignments     | 20% |

This is tentative and subject to changes as announced in class.

Each of you is discouraged from missing a scheduled test. Should circumstances prevent you from taking a test at the scheduled time, your absence should be excused and a make-up time agreed upon at least 24 hours in advance. Failure to make such arrangements may result in a grade of zero for that test. No additional work will be accepted for "extra credit" or "grade improvement".

A numerical score will be computed based on the weights above and a letter grade assigned according to a 10-point grading scale. I reserve the right to adjust the scale if the class average is either very high or very low.

**IX. Attendance Policy:** You are expected and strongly encouraged to attend all class meetings on time in order to gain maximum benefit from the course. Class attendance will be checked and is a factor in the course grade, as reflected in the class participation component. You are responsible for all material missed due to class absences. You are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current *MSU Bulletin*.

**X. Academic Honesty Policy:** Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

**Violations of Academic Honesty include:**

**Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

**Fabrication and Falsification** - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

**Multiple Submission** - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

**Plagiarism** - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

**If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.**

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

**XI. Non-Discrimination Policy Statement and Students with Disabilities:**

Policy Statement:

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. 270-809-2018 (voice) 270-809-5889(TDD).

- XII. Other:** The College of Business and Public Affairs Code of Ethics is available at [http://www.murraystate.edu/Libraries/COB\\_Documents/Code\\_of\\_Ethics.sflb.ashx](http://www.murraystate.edu/Libraries/COB_Documents/Code_of_Ethics.sflb.ashx). The collegiate Appeals and Grievance Procedure is available at [http://www.murraystate.edu/Libraries/COB\\_Documents/Appeals\\_and\\_Grivance\\_Procedure.sflb.ashx](http://www.murraystate.edu/Libraries/COB_Documents/Appeals_and_Grivance_Procedure.sflb.ashx).

**Important University Dates:**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| January 12  | Classes begin   |
| January 16  | Last day to enroll in full semester classes<br>Last day to drop with no grade |
| January 19  | University closed for Martin Luther King Day                                  |
| March 4     | Mid-semester grades due   |
| March 14-22 | Spring Break  |
| April 14    | Last day to drop with a "W"<br>Last day to change from CREDIT to AUDIT        |
| May 1       | Last day of classes   |
| May 4       | 10:30 a.m., Final Exam period for CSC 540                                     |
| May 9       | 10:00 a.m., Commencement  |

**Please fill out this page, detach it, and return it to the instructor.**

By my signature below, I certify that I have received a copy of the course syllabus for CSC 540 taught by Dr. William F. Lyle during the Spring Semester of 2015. Furthermore, I certify that I have read and understand the contents of the course syllabus.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you want your grades to be posted, please enter a 4-digit number to identify yourself. If you would prefer that your grades not be posted, then enter "None."

My 4-digit code: \_\_\_\_\_