

IS4546: SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES OF THE INTERNET

Effective Term

Semester A 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Social, Legal and Ethical Issues of the Internet

Subject Code

IS - Information Systems

Course Number

4546

Academic Unit

Information Systems (IS)

College/School

College of Business (CB)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

IS4542 Legal and Ethical Issues in Information Systems
IS4545 Legal, Security and Risk Management Issues for IS
JC4002 Legal, Ethical & Security Issues in MIM

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course is about the social, legal and ethical issues in using information technology (IT) for business purposes. The course introduces the implications and impacts of the internet on social, legal and ethical issues that information systems (IS) professionals can expect to encounter at work. You will learn how to evaluate the controversies and alternative points of view with respect to the privacy and protection of personal data, the reliability of information systems used in organisational contexts, the risks involved with the use of information systems, freedom of speech, intellectual property rights and duties, computer crimes and a variety of other work, social and professional issues. At the end, you will gain strong awareness and clear understanding of professional issues and challenges faced by contemporary information systems professionals, and how they can best deal with these issues.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Discover and describe the professional principles and responsibilities of an information systems practitioner.	20			
2	Assess how to deal effectively with professional challenges that may affect their work.	20			
3	Propose creative solutions to multi-criteria problem situations, so as to create justifiable solutions that are innovative, relevant and rigorous.	20	x	x	
4	Assess the impacts of their proposed solutions.	20			
5	Identify and evaluate the legal, ethical, and security issues and principles that are critical to professional conduct in Information Systems.	20			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	TLA1: Seminar	IS4546 is taught as a 3-hour seminar. Seminars usually contain a mix of "lecture" and "discussion", the latter often supported by case analysis and discussion.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Seminar:3 Hours/Week

2	TLA2: Semester Group Project	The semester project requires each group to choose an ethical dilemma of a real-world organisation not discussed in class (ideally based in Hong Kong or China), but one that involves course concepts and issues, and is based on publically available documentation (e.g., newspaper articles, journal articles, web site articles). Each group will write up their synthesis and overview of the case problem, then analyse the situation, and their recommend solutions based on a professional IS perspective and course principles. More details on the assignment will be provided during the semester.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	AT1.Seminar Exercises and Homework Each seminar will include case or scenario-based analysis and discussion activities to clarify the course concepts; thus, attendance and active student participation are critical. Key to this learning, occasional group or individual homework and computer-based learning assignments will be given, such as short case analyses. Additionally, each group will present a short presentation on a pre-assigned topic once during the semester.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30

2	AT2.Group Semester ProjectOne semester group project, as previously described.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	
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Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

AT1.Seminar Exercises and Homework

Criterion

Ability to accurately describe and assess the relative impact of all key issues & responsibilities relevant to IS professionals, with a high level of detail and appreciation of the ethical and legal subtleties involved.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT1.Seminar Exercises and Homework

Criterion

Ability to accurately describe how professional challenges at work can be dealt with. Engage in an intellectually sophisticated debate on the salience of the topic, demonstrating a deep awareness of professional responsibilities.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT1.Seminar Exercises and Homework

Criterion

Capability to creatively propose solutions that are innovative, relevant and rigorous to multi-criteria problem situations.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT1.Seminar Exercises and Homework

Criterion

Ability to rigorously and comprehensively assess the impacts of proposed solutions on various stakeholders.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT1.Seminar Exercises and Homework

Criterion

Ability to accurately identify and critique the legal, ethical, audit and security issues that are critical to professional conduct in Information Systems.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT2.Group Semester Project

Criterion

Ability to accurately describe and assess the relative impact of all key issues & responsibilities relevant to IS professionals, with a high level of detail and appreciation of the ethical and legal subtleties involved.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

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Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT2.Group Semester Project

Criterion

Ability to accurately describe how professional challenges at work can be dealt with. Engage in an intellectually sophisticated debate on the salience of the topic, demonstrating a deep awareness of professional responsibilities.

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Assessment Task

AT2.Group Semester Project

Criterion

Capability to creatively propose solutions that are innovative, relevant and rigorous to multi-criteria problem situations.

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AT2.Group Semester Project

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AT2.Group Semester Project

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Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT3.Examination

Criterion

Ability to accurately describe and assess the relative impact of all key issues & responsibilities relevant to IS professionals, with a high level of detail and appreciation of the ethical and legal subtleties involved.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT3.Examination

Criterion

Ability to accurately describe how professional challenges at work can be dealt with. Engage in an intellectually sophisticated debate on the salience of the topic, demonstrating a deep awareness of professional responsibilities.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT3.Examination

Criterion

Capability to creatively propose solutions that are innovative, relevant and rigorous to multi-criteria problem situations.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

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Assessment Task

AT3.Examination

Criterion

Ability to rigorously and comprehensively assess the impacts of proposed solutions on various stakeholders.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

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Assessment Task

AT3.Examination

Criterion

Ability to accurately identify and critique the legal, ethical, audit and security issues that are critical to professional conduct in Information Systems.

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Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Ethics; IT ethics; Ethical decision making; Data privacy; Information security; Intellectual property; Accountability; Reliability; Liability; Computer crimes; Computer abuse; IT risks; Information systems; Security policies.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Ethics for the Information Age by Michael Quinn, Pearson Education (7th Edition), 2017.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Baase, S., A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing and the Internet, 4th Edition, Pearson, 2013.
2	Hunton, J., Bryan, S. and Bagranoff, N., Core Concepts of Information Technology Auditing, John Wiley & Sons, 2004.
3	Langford, D., Internet Ethics, Macmillan, 2000.

4	Journal of Business Ethics.
5	Ethics and Information Technology.