

## Computer Ethics & Law

### IS 132

#### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)**

1. Students identify and analyze statutory, regulatory, constitutional, and organizational laws that affect the information technology professional.
2. Students locate and apply case law and common law to current legal dilemmas in the technology field.
3. Students apply diverse viewpoints to ethical dilemmas in the information technology field and recommend appropriate actions.
4. Students distinguish enforceable contracts from non-enforceable contracts.
5. Students demonstrate leadership and teamwork.

#### **Course Outline**

##### **I. Applied Ethics**

- A. What ethics is and is not
- B. Explore differences between laws and ethics
- C. Ethical viewpoints
  1. Virtue (deontology)
  2. Utilitarianism
  3. Natural Rights
  4. Fairness (Justice)
  5. Common good
- D. Ethical decision making process

##### **II. United States and International Legal Systems**

- A. How a common law system works
- B. Types of laws
  1. Constitution
  2. Federal statute
  3. Federal regulations
  4. State statute
  5. State regulations
  6. Municipal ordinances
  7. Organizational
- C. United States system of courts
- D. Jurisdiction
  1. Jurisdiction in the United States
  2. International jurisdiction
  3. Jurisdictional complications in the IT field
- E. Comparison of civil vs criminal proceedings
  1. Burden of proof
  2. Plaintiff
  3. Penalties
- F. U.S. search and seizure laws and procedures for digital media

##### **III. Cyberspace Privacy Laws and Issues**

- A. Child Protection Laws
- B. COPPA
- C. How web cookies collect information
- D. Anti-Spam laws
- E. Analyze Privacy policies
  - 1. Opt in vs Opt out
  - 2. International impact on privacy policies
- F. Privacy Act of 1974 and governmental outsourcing
- G. Legality and ethics of spyware and other malware
- H. Privacy vs civil liberties
- I. RFID (Radio Frequency ID) issues

#### **IV. HIPAA: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act**

- A. Basics of HIPAA
- B. Implications of HIPAA for IT professionals
  - 1. Administrative procedures
  - 2. Physical safeguards
  - 3. Technical security services
  - 4. Technical security mechanisms

#### **V. Cyberspace Free Speech Laws and Issues**

- A. Cyberstalking problems and laws
- B. Free speech Web issues
  - 1. International free speech differences
  - 2. Regulations regarding 501(c)(3) organization Web sites and political action and advocacy
- C. Free Speech vs. National Security
  - 1. Encryption issues

#### **VI. Cyberspace Intellectual Property Laws and Issues**

- A. Copyright law
  - 1. Fair use
  - 2. DRM (Digital Rights Management) and the DMCA (Digital Millennium Copyright Act)
  - 3. Copyright Web issues
- B. Patent Law
  - 1. Software patents issues
- C. Trademarks
  - 1. Cybersquatting
  - 2. Using trademarks in meta-tags
  - 3. Software License agreements
    - a. Closed software EULA's (End User License Agreement)
    - b. Open Source GPL (GNU Public License)

#### **VII. CyberCrime and Related Laws**

- A. Review of cybercrime statistics and trends
- B. Cybercrime categories
- C. Computer fraud
- D. Gray Hat Hacking
- E. Crimes and penalties under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA)

**VIII. Professionalism and Work Place Issues in the IT Field**

- A. Impact of technology on employment trends
- B. Laws and ethics of employee monitoring
- C. Review ethical codes of IT professional organizations

**IX. Contracts**

- A. Requirements for an enforceable contract
  - 1. Capacity of parties
  - 2. Requirements of Offer and Acceptance (Assent)
  - 3. Consideration
  - 4. Legality of subject matter
- B. Employment contract practices

**X. Leadership**

- A. Working with a team
- B. Preparing effective and persuasive presentations
- C. Delivering effective and persuasive presentations
- D. Analyzing presentations