Prince Sultan University
College of Computer and Info Sciences / Department of Computer Science
Term 253
3rd Semester 2025 - 2026

COURSE SYLLABUS

Mission Statement of the Bachelor of Computer Science Program(s): Provide high quality, computer science education to prepare top graduates through an environment that promotes innovative thinking, ethical behavior, lifelong learning, research, and service to the community.

1. Course number and name: ETHC303, Ethical and Social Aspects of Computing
2. Credits and contact hours: 3(3,0,0)
3. Instructor's or course coordinator's name: Dr. Najla Althuniyan
   a. Scheduled Office Hours: Available on Moodle
   b. Office Location: Building 101 – R308
   c. Email: nthuniyan@psu.edu.sa

4. Textbook, title, author, and year
   a. Primary Text: Computer Ethics by Deborah G. Johnson, 4th Edition 2009, Prentice-Hall.
   b. Other References:
      - Readings in Cyber Ethics, 2nd Edition, Edited by Richard Spinello and Herman Tavani.
      - Jones & Bartlett Learning: Cyber Ethics: Morality and Law in Cyberspace by Richard Spinello
      - Investigating Cyber Law and Cyber Ethics: Issues, Impacts and Practices by Dudley, Alfreda
      - Ethics and Technology: Controversies, Questions, and Strategies for Ethical Computing: Herman T. Tavani
      - Case Studies in Information Technology Ethics, 2nd e Richard A. Spinello, Boston College © 2003 / 0-13-009150-3 / Prentice Hall
        Ethics for the Information Age 6th Edition, Michael J. Quinn Addison-Wesley, ISBN: 0133741621, 9780133741629
   c. Course Website [Optional]: N/A
   d. Learning Management System: Moodle available at: https://lms.psu.edu.sa/

5. Specific course information
   a. Brief description of the content of the course (catalog description):
      The course concentrates on the theory and practice of computer and information ethics. It covers the basics of ethical decision-making and emphasizes group work and presentations. Topics studied in the course include risk and reliability, privacy, info war, crime, access, business ethics, copyright, patents, and more.
   b. Prerequisites or co-requisites: Junior level.
   c. Indicate whether a required, elective, or selected elective (as per Table 5-1) course in the program: Required (R) as a Core course in BSCS program.

1. Specific goals for the course

a. Specific outcomes of instruction. The student will be able to:

CLO 1: Recognize various ethical theories which can be used to form the basis of solutions to ethical, security and social issues in computing. (Values, autonomy, and responsibility).

CLO 2: Recognize different professional codes of ethics to address the social, moral and ethical, legal, security and social issues in computing technology. (Values, autonomy, and responsibility

CLO 3: Apply cyber and intellectual property laws to address the misuse of computing technology and its artifacts in various computing scenarios (Values, autonomy, and responsibility).

CLO 4: Analyze the ethical, social and security implications of the design, deployment and application stages of technological artifacts. (Values, autonomy, and responsibility).

CLO 5: Appraise effective team work through various group work techniques. (Values, autonomy, and responsibility).

CLO 6: Demonstrate effective written and oral communication abilities through various learning strategies. (Cognitive Skill).

b. Explicitly indicate which of the student outcomes listed in Criterion 3 or any other outcomes are addressed by the course.

Course LOs #	Student Outcomes		
	Computer Science	Software Engineering	Information Systems
1	4	4	4
2	4	4	4
3	4	4	4
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	3	3	3

7. Brief list of topics to be covered

Week	Topics	CLO(s) Alignment	Assessments
1	Introduction to Ethics - Ethical Theories	CLO 1	Major I, Final Exam, Quiz(s)
2	Professional Ethics - Standards and Framework ACM, IEEE, SE Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct	CLO 1, 2	Major I, Final Exam, Student Activity
3	Technical and Ethical Issues with Systems Analyst/Software Developer - Security Issues and their countermeasures	CLO 2, 4	Major I, Final Exam, Student Activity
4	Privacy Issues and their countermeasures - Social media and Mobile Phone Ethical, legal and Security Issues	CLO 2, 3, 4	Major II, Final Exam, Quiz(s)

5	Social Engineering & Ethical Hacking, Business Ethics Intellectual Property Laws	CLO 2, 3, 4	Major II, Final Exam, Quiz(s)
6	Cyber Laws in Saudi Arabia Cyber World Ethics - Virtual/Augmented Reality Cyber World Ethics - Games Cyber World Ethics - Smart Homes	CLO 3, 5, 6	Final Exam
7	Cyber World Ethics - Smart Cities Social Implications of AI and Expert Systems	CLO 5, 6	**Flipped Class** Final Exam, Student Activity
8	Social Implications of Data Mining Social Implications of Softbots Social Implications of Drones	CLO 5, 6	**Flipped Class** Final Exam, Student Activity

8. Weight of Assessments.

- Attendance 5%
- Participation (Student Activity (Research Project + Presentation) 15%
- **Quiz(s):** 10%
  - Quiz 1: **June 21, 2026 (during class time).**
  - Quiz 2: **July 21, 2026 (during class time).**

- **2 Major Exam(s):** 30%
  - Major Exam 1: **June 28, 2026 (during class time).**
  - Major Exam 2: **July 19, 2026 (during class time).**
- **Comprehensive Makeup exam (for any missed assessment):**
  - **July 28 from 12-1 pm.**
- **Final Exam: August 2, 2026 @ 8:30 am** 40%