Overview

Course Code*****   COMP9920
Course Name*****   Professional Issues and Ethics in Information Technology
Course Name - SiMs*****   Professional Issues and Ethics
Owning Faculty*****   Faculty of Engineering
Owning Academic Unit*****   School of Computer Science and Engineering
Collaborating Academic Unit - NA
Administrative Campus*****   Sydney
Units of Credit***** 6
Grading Basis **-**   Standard UNSW grades
Academic Calendar Type***** 3+
Career*****   Postgraduate

Academic Details

Course Description for Handbook*****

In this course we will explore ethical issues for computer science, widely conceived. We will examine in detail the nature of ethical claims/moral judgements themselves, and how it is that our beliefs about their nature can affect our understanding of the ethical issues relating to computer science that we will examined far. We will learn about ethical arguments, and how to construct and evaluate them. We will cover utilitarian, deontological, and virtue ethics, and run test cases past real-world computer science cases. We will learn to engage critically with research ethics, as well as the relationship between ethical responsibility and AI frameworks and innovation. There will be considerable discussion of "ethics washing" - the pretence of ethical reasoning by those in positions of power for the purpose of avoiding regulation, As well as explore the related issues of trust, accountability, and privacy in our current online, informationalised world. We will explore equity, bias and fairness in algorithmic and dataset design, as well as the ethics of AI more broadly. We will also explore the ethical ramifications of transparency and explainability - along with their attendant relationships with power, as they relate to computer science in general.

Field of Education (Broad)*****   020000 Information Technology
Field of Education (Narrow)*****   020100 Computer Science
Field of Education (Detailed)*****   020199 Computer Science not elsewhere classified

Level   Level 9

Teaching Strategies and Rationale
- Lectures ... introduce concepts, show examples
- Tutorials ... reinforce concepts and provide additional examples

Course Aims

To explore ethical issues for computer science, widely conceived. To examine in detail the nature of ethical claims/moral judgements themselves, and how it is that our beliefs about their nature can affect our understanding of the ethical issues relating to computer science that we will examine.

Delivery Attributes

Course Properties
Course Type
Award course
Course Attributes

Repeat for Credit   No
Delivery
Delivery Variations

Delivery Name	Delivery Mode	Delivery Format
IN-PERSON-ST	In-person	Standard (usually weekly or fortnightly)

Learning Outcomes

HELP

Learning Outcomes

Code	Description
CLO1	Articulate the major normative and meta-ethical theories that underpin real, research-level moral debates in both academic and professional contexts.
CLO2	Define and employ ethical values, principles, and practices for responsible research and innovation of technological and computing advances.
CLO3	Build, articulate, and justify their own moral arguments - as well as how to analyse moral judgements and moral arguments in general.
CLO4	Discuss ethical dilemmas around specific technological case studies.
CLO5	Recognise ethical issues and pitfalls in the professional practice of developing novel technologies, including AI (e.g. fairness, transparency, accountability), and learn about existing efforts to mitigate these issues.

Course Mapping
CLO Mapping

Mapping
[Go to Curriculum Mapper](#)

Assessments
Assessments

Assessment Type	Assessment Name	Weighting (%)
Essay	First Essay	20
Essay	Second Essay	30
Presentation	Group Presentation	20
Report	Group Project Report	30

Assessment Total Percentage

COMP9920	100

Requirements to pass this course
Enrolment Requirements and Relationships
Enrolment Requirements

Type	Description	Career
Enrolment Requirements	Completion of 18 UOC in Computer Science.	Undergraduate

Additional Constraints on Enrolment Requirements or Relationships

Course Relationships

~~Relationship Type~~	~~Related Course~~
~~Exclusions~~	~~SENG4921 Professional Issues and Ethics 2024.01IR~~
~~Exclusions~~	~~COMP2920 Professional Issues and Ethics for Computer Science 2024.01IR~~
~~Exclusions~~	~~BINF4920 Professional Issues and Ethics for Bioinformatics 2024.01IR~~
~~Exclusions~~	~~SENG4920 Ethics and Management 2024.01AR~~~~SENG4920 Ethics and Management 2024.02~~
~~Jointly Taught~~	~~SENG4920 Ethics and Management 2024.01AR~~~~SENG4920 Ethics and Management 2024.02~~

Third Party Arrangements
Third Party

Resourcing
Revenue Split

Other Information for Handbook
Key Search Terms

Computer Science, Project Management, ethics
Requisites