Term Information

Effective Term   Spring 2023

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area   International Studies
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org   UG International Studies Prog - D0709
College/Academic Group   Arts and Sciences
Level/Career   Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog   3703
Course Title   Ethical Issues in the Information Age
Transcript Abbreviation   Ethic Iss Info Age
Course Description   Understand how different ethical systems shape our values and decision making and how this affects others and the greater public good. Systematically apply ethical thinking to contemporary issues in information technology to maximize benefits and minimize risks to our private lives, national security and our social and economic well-being.
Semester Credit Hours/Units   Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course   14 Week, 12 Week, 8 Week, 7 Week, 6 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course   Never
Does any section of this course have a distance No
education component?
Grading Basis   Letter Grade
Repeatable   No
Course Components   Lecture
Grade Roster Component   Lecture
Credit Available by Exam   No
Admission Condition Course   No
Off Campus   Never
Campus of Offering   Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark, Wooster

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites   None
Exclusions   None
Electronically Enforced   No

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code   45.0901
Subsidy Level   Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank   Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Requirement/Elective Designation

Required for this unit's degrees, majors, and/or minors

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Understand how different ethical systems shape our values and decision making.
- Use this understanding to better appreciate the values and decision making of others, enabling collaborative decision making for public benefit.
- Apply systematic ethical thinking to significant contemporary issues in information technologies.
- Think critically about these issues from different perspectives, synthesize these interpretations in the form of persuasive arguments, and present these arguments formally, both in written and in oral form.

Content Topic List

- Why Ethics? Trust. Public Interest Technology
- Ethical systems, Technology and ethical choices, Ethics and innovation.
- Intellectual property, professional ethics, whistle-blowing.
- Networked communications, privacy, surveillance capitalism.
- Information technology, crime, national security, cyber-security.
- Society and ethics, social justice, policing, weaponization of social media.

Sought Concurrence Yes

Attachments

- IS 3703 Syllabus SP23 (4-27-22).docx: Syllabus, Revised

  (Syllabus. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- INTSTDS 3703 Concurrences.pdf: Concurr from CSE, PHILOS

  (Concurrence. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- AFS (BA) MAP.docx: African Studies BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- AFS (BS) MAP.docx: African Studies BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- DVS (BA) MAP.docx: Development BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- DVS (BS) MAP.docx: Development BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- EAS (BA) MAP.docx: East Asia Studies BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- EAS (BS) MAP.docx: East Asia Studies BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- GBL (BA) MAP.docx: Globalization BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- GBL (BS) MAP.docx: Globalization BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- IRD (BA) MAP.docx: International Relns BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- IRD (BS) MAP.docx: International Relns BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- LAS (BA) MAP.docx: Latin America BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- LAS (BS) MAP.docx: Latin America BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- MES (BA) MAP.docx: Middle East BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- MES (BS) MAP.docx: Middle East BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- S&I (BA) MAP.docx: Security & Intel BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- S&I (BS) MAP.docx: Security & Intel BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- SEE (BA) MAP.docx: Slavic E Euro BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- SEE (BS) MAP.docx: Slavic E Euro BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- WEB (BA) MAP.docx: World Econ & Busi BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- WEB (BS) MAP.docx: World Econ & Busi BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- WEU (BA) MAP.docx: Western Euro BA Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

- WEU (BS) MAP.docx: Western Euro BS Map

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Meltz,Richard Lee)

Comments

- Course offered as 2194 Group Studies in the past. Now updated for submission as a normal class. Submitted by unit as an Embedded Literacy Technology class to CAA. No mention is made of EL status on the syllabus.

  Tried to add a combined PDF of all maps.

  Software would not accept. A combined PDF can be e-mailed to reviewers upon request. *(by Meltz,Richard Lee on 04/27/2022 02:56 PM)*

- - If this course will be able to count in the I.S. major, please upload updated curriculum map(s).

  - Please request concurrence from Philosophy & from Computer Science and Engineering. *(by Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal on 03/28/2022 01:22 PM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Meltz,Richard Lee	03/28/2022 11:16 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Kurtz,Marcus Jurgen	03/28/2022 12:24 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	03/29/2022 03:33 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Meltz,Richard Lee	04/27/2022 02:58 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Kurtz,Marcus Jurgen	04/27/2022 02:59 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	04/27/2022 03:38 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Cody,Emily Kathryn Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin,Deborah Kay Hilty,Michael Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Steele,Rachel Lea	04/27/2022 03:38 PM	ASCCAO Approval

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES 3703
ETHICAL ISSUES IN THE INFORMATION AGE
SPRING SEMESTER 2023

Instructor

Dr. Jeffrey Lewis
33 Townshend Hall
lewis.317@osu.edu
292-9657

Office Hours, SP 2023
T-Th 9-11
or by appointment

Course overview:

This course will provide interested undergraduates from different backgrounds with an introduction to ethics and technology so that they may think more systematically about controversial issues in information technology. It will introduce students to several different schools of ethical thinking so that they may better understand how to reconcile their own values and priorities with those of others. It will also present them with a survey of the challenges that we must overcome to maximize the benefits (and minimize the risks) that information technologies pose to our private lives, our national security, and our social and economic well-being.

Course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Understand how different ethical systems shape our values and decision making
- Use this understanding to better appreciate the values and decision making of others, enabling collaborative decision making for public benefit
- Apply systematic ethical thinking to significant contemporary issues in information technologies
- Think critically about these issues from different perspectives, synthesize these interpretations in the form of persuasive arguments, and present these arguments formally, both in written and in oral form

Course materials

The following books will be used in the course:

Michael J. Quinn, *Ethics for the Information Age* 7th Edition (Required)
Bruce Schneier, *Data and Goliath* (Required)

Additional readings for this course have been posted to the course Carmen site.

Assignments and Grading

Allocation of Points

Assignment	Points
Class Attendance and Course Engagement	100
Homework Essays (4 at 150 points each)	600
Final Exam	300
Total	1000

Assignment information

1) Participation/Course Engagement. You are expected to attend class regularly and to participate in discussions in an informed manner. You *must* complete each reading assignment before class and come prepared to discuss the material with the rest of us. You are also expected to log into Carmen regularly and make use of the resources there. You will have several brief discussion questions to respond to via Carmen throughout the semester. The questions will get you thinking about the material that we are about to cover. Although graded as complete/incomplete, the effort that you put into the discussion questions and the timeliness with which you complete them will also be components of your overall participation grade. This grade will also take into consideration your online engagement evaluated through Carmen metrics.

2) You must submit four short essay assignments, roughly 2-3 pages long each, during the term. Each assignment will require you to put the previous 2-3 weeks' lectures and readings together to answer a challenging ethical issue. There will be a total of **five** essay topics; you must write

on only **four.** You will have a full week to complete each assignment, which will be worth 150 points. These essays are meant to prepare you for the day's discussion of the topic; you must therefore be present and prepared for discussion when you submit your essay, or you will have a penalty imposed on your grade.

3) A longer (5-6 page) take home final exam will be due during finals week. This exam will require you to revisit the ethical system you discussed in your introductory essay and use it to review the entire course.

Late assignments

Your formal written papers are due on the assigned day and are meant to prepare you for that day's lecture and discussion. If you do not submit them on time you will incur a penalty of one letter grade per day late they are submitted, up to a maximum deduction of two letter grades. *No* late assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the deadline without my prior approval. Please plan your schedule accordingly so that you will be able to complete and submit the assignments on time. If submitting an assignment on time might pose a problem for you, please contact me in advance so that we can work out an alternative.

Grading scale

The grading scale is as follows: 93-100% = A; 90-92% =A-; 87-89% =B+; 83-86% =B; 80-82% =B-; 77-79% =C+; 73-76% =C; 70-72% =C-; 67-69% =D+; 60-66% =D; 59% and below =E.

Classroom Rules:

I typically distribute handouts, review key concepts and issues, and take questions at the beginning of class. It is therefore imperative that you make every effort to be in class *on time* at the beginning of each class session. In addition, arriving late/leaving early, or otherwise walking in and out of the classroom during lecture is very disruptive, both to me and to the entire class, so please do your best to ensure that you will be here on time and for the duration of the class. If your schedule is such that arriving/leaving on time will present a problem for you, please talk to me immediately so that we can work out a solution that will minimize any class disruptions.

Health and Safety Requirements:

All students, faculty and staff are required to comply with and stay up to date on all university safety and health guidance (https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu), which includes wearing a face mask in any indoor space and maintaining a safe physical distance at all times. Non-compliance will be warned first, and disciplinary actions will be taken for repeated offenses.

Syllabus Changes:

I will make every effort to adhere to the schedule of lectures and assignments laid out in this syllabus; nevertheless, I may have to make changes during the semester, particularly if we miss any lecture days for any reason. I will announce any changes in class and will post them to the course Carmen site as well. Attending class regularly and making regular use of Carmen are the

best ways to ensure that you will be prepared to deal with any changes to the syllabus over the course of the semester.

Enrollment:

All students must be officially enrolled by the end of the second week of class. No requests to add the class will be approved by the International Studies Program after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is the responsibility of the student. Please see me as soon as possible if you are interested in enrolling and are not on the roster. It may not be possible to enroll all students because of space limitations.

Other course policies

Academic integrity policy

- **Written assignments**: Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in--but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- **Reusing past work**: In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.

Ohio State's academic integrity policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages (COAM Home)
- *Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (Ten Suggestions)*
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity* (www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.html)

Copyright disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course. Similarly, materials produced exclusively for this course, including lectures and PowerPoint presentations, may not be copied or distributed without my explicit permission.

Statement on title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at http://titleix.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleix@osu.edu.

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Your mental health!

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614- 292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273- TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Course Schedule

Introduction
Monday 1/9: Introduction to the Course; Administrative Issues

Unit 1: Ethics and Technology
Wednesday, 1/1i: Why Ethics? Ethics and Trust; Public Interest Technology
 Reading: "A Social History of Trust" and "Societal Dilemmas," Chs. 4
 and 5 of Bruce Schneier, *Liars and Outliers;* Susan Crawford, "Why Universities Need
 'Public Interest Technology' Courses," *Wired,* August 2018
Monday, 1/16: NO CLASS—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HOLIDAY
Wednesday, 1/18: Ethical Systems
 Reading: Quinn, Chapter 2
Monday, 1/23: Ethics and Law; Globalization of Ethics; Individual Freedoms vs Ethical
 Constraints
 Reading: "Tools for Communication, Tools for Oppression," pp. 163-167 of Sara Baase,
 A Gift of Fire
Wednesday, 1/25: Technology and Ethical Choices; Ethics and Innovation
 Reading: Melvin Kranzberg, "Technology and History: Kranzberg's Laws"
Monday, 1/30: Case Study/Class Discussion: Social Media and Repressive Regimes
 Reading: Paul Mozur, "A Genocide Incited on Facebook,"
https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/15/technology/myanmar-facebook-genocide.html
 First Essay Due at Beginning of Class

Unit 2: Ethics, Values, and Professions
Wednesday, 2/1: Engineering and Values: The Ghost of Peter Palchinsky
Monday, 2/6: Values and Technological Systems: From Computers to Home Computers
 Reading: Quinn, Chapter 1
Wednesday, 2/8: Intellectual Property
 Reading: Quinn, Ch. 4
Monday, 2/13: Professional Ethics/The Ethics of Whistle-Blowing
 Reading: Quinn, Ch. 9
Wednesday, 2/15: Case Study/Class Discussion: Edward Snowden, Traitor or Whistle-Blower?
 Reading: James Bamford, "The Most Wanted Man in the World,"
 Wired June 2014
 Second Essay Due at Beginning of Class

Unit 3: Networked Communications, Information, and Privacy
Monday, 2/20: Networked Communications
 Reading: Quinn, pp. 21-31; Ch. 7 "E-Mail" from *Where Wizards Stay Up Late*
Wednesday, 2/22: The Nature of Privacy
 Reading: Quinn, Ch. 5; Schneier, Ch. 10
Monday, 2/27: The Information Economy and Privacy
 Reading: *Data and Goliath,* Introduction, Chs. 1-3
Wednesday, 3/1: Surveillance Capitalism

Reading: *Data and Goliath,* Chs. 4, 8, 9
Monday, 3/6: *Government, Security, and Privacy*
Reading: *Data and Goliath,* Chs. 5, 6, 7, 11
Wednesday, 3/8: *Class Discussion: What to Do?*
Reading: *Data and Goliath,* Chs. 12-16
Third Essay Due at Beginning of Class

Monday, 3/13 and Wednesday, 3/15: *NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK*

Unit 4: Information Systems, Crime, and National Security
Monday, 3/20: *Information Technology, Crime, and Security*
Reading: "Hacking," pp. 230-250 of Sara Baase, *A Gift of Fire;* Andy Greenberg, "The Confessions of Marcus Hutchins, the Hacker Who Saved the Internet" *Wired* June 2020
Wednesday, 3/22: *Cyber Security: From Espionage to Attack*
Reading: Quinn, Ch. 7
Monday, 3/27: *Stuxnet*
Reading: Kim Zetter, "Zero Day Paydays" Ch. 7 of *Countdown to Zero Day*
Wednesday, 3/29: *Cyber-Security: China, Russia, and North Korea*
Reading: Prologue, Ch. VII "Putin's Petri Dish" from Frederick Sanger, *The Perfect Weapon*
Monday, 4/3: *Case Study/Class Discussion: Hack or Patch?*
Reading: "Exposure," Ch. 11 of Ben Buchanan, *The Hacker and the State*
Fourth Essay Due at Beginning of Class

Unit 5: Data, Society, and Ethics
Wednesday, 4/5: *Who Warrants Ethical Treatment? The Ethical Choices of Fritz Haber and the ethics of Climate Change*
Reading: "Climate Change," Ch. 9 of Peter Singer, *Practical Ethics*
Monday, 4/10: *Employment in the Digital Economy*
Reading: Quinn, Ch. 10
Wednesday, 4/12: *Algorithms and Social Justice: Inequality and Policing*
Reading: TBD
Monday, 4/17: *Social Media as Weapon and Service*
Reading: Chapter 1 of Peter W. Singer and Emerson Brooking, *Likewar: The Weaponization of Social Media;* "Compromised Truth," pp. 151-167 of Susan Liautaud, *The Power of Ethics*
Wednesday, 4/19: *Case Study/Class Discussion: Social Media: Tobacco or Lead Paint?*
Reading: "Argument Two" from Jaron Lanier, *10 Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now*
Fifth Essay due at the Beginning of Class
Monday, 4/24: *Course Review and Wrap-Up*

Final Exam: Due Date and Time to be Announced

Concurrence from CSE for INTSTDS 3703

From: Teodorescu, Radu <teodores@cse.ohio-state.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Kurtz, Marcus <kurtz.61@polisci.osu.edu>
Cc: Fosler-Lussier, Eric <fosler@cse.ohio-state.edu>; Sivilotti, Paul <paolo@cse.ohio-state.edu>
Subject: Re: concurrence request - International Studies

Dear Marcus,

On behalf of the CSE department I am happy to grant concurrence to INTSTDS 3703 as outlined in your syllabus from March 30th.

The Curriculum Committee was impressed with this new class and we think this could be of interest to some of our students as a non-technical elective. During our discussions we found that the course has some overlap with CSE 2501, but INTSTDS 3703 is more in depth so the overlap is minimal.

Just as an information item, we are considering offering an Ethics in AI course at some point in the future. We do not believe there will be much overlap between that and INTSTDS 3703.

With best wishes,

--Radu

—
Radu Teodorescu
Professor
Computer Science and Engineering
The Ohio State University
(614) 292-7027
https://web.cse.ohio-state.edu/~teodorescu.1/

From:	Kurtz, Marcus
Sent:	Wednesday, April 20, 2022 10:53 AM
To:	Meltz, Richard
Subject:	Fwd: International Studies 3703 Concurrence Request

Here is the Philosophy concurrence. Please change the title to reflect the agreement (see below). Thanks! Marcus.

(phone)
Marcus Kurtz
Department of Political Science
Director, International Studies
Ohio State University

From: Downing, Lisa <downing.110@osu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 10:44:28 AM
To: Kurtz, Marcus <kurtz.61@polisci.osu.edu>
Subject: Re: International Studies 3703 Concurrence Request

Sounds good; thanks for your flexibility.
Philosophy concurs!
Best,
Lisa

_____

Lisa Downing (she/her)
Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy
Ohio State University

> **From:** Kurtz, Marcus <kurtz.61@polisci.osu.edu>
> **Date:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 3:26 PM
> **To:** Downing, Lisa <downing.110@osu.edu>
> **Subject:** RE: International Studies 3703 Concurrence Request
>
> How about "Ethical Issues in the Information Age?" Would that work – there would thus be no claim to lay out any proper ethical theory?
>
>
>
> Marcus J. Kurtz
> Professor, Political Science
> Director, International Studies Program
> Ohio State University
> https://polisci.osu.edu/people/kurtz.61

From: Downing, Lisa <downing.110@osu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 5:34 PM
To: Kurtz, Marcus <kurtz.61@polisci.osu.edu>
Subject: Re: International Studies 3703 Concurrence Request

OK, great, let us know what the revised title is.
Thanks,
Lisa

From: Kurtz, Marcus <kurtz.61@polisci.osu.edu>
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 3:16 PM
To: Downing, Lisa <downing.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: International Studies 3703 Concurrence Request

That's absolutely no problem, we'll make that change.

Marcus J. Kurtz
Professor, Political Science
Director, International Studies Program
Ohio State University
https://polisci.osu.edu/people/kurtz.61

From: Downing, Lisa <downing.110@osu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Kurtz, Marcus <kurtz.61@polisci.osu.edu>
Subject: Re: International Studies 3703 Concurrence Request

Hi Marcus,
I ran this by our curriculum committee. We would like to suggest that the course title be refined.
We would suggest "ethical issues" rather than "ethics", since the aim is to discuss various ethical issues, rather than to systematically lay out ethical theory. So, e.g., "Ethical Issues in Tech Policy".
Alternatively, the title might be changed to something reflecting the course's origin in International Studies, e.g. "International Ethics in the Information Age".
As you can see, our concern is not with the syllabus, which looks fine, but that the title might easily be interpreted as being very broad, as though the aim were to cover all of ethical theory, from a modern and tech-focused perspective.
So we are reluctant to concur with the current title, but could readily concur with a revised proposal.
I hope this reply isn't too inconvenient!
All best,
Lisa

From: Kurtz, Marcus <kurtz.61@polisci.osu.edu>
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 9:26 AM
To: Downing, Lisa <downing.110@osu.edu>
Subject: International Studies 3703 Concurrence Request

Dear Lisa (if I may),

I'm writing as the director of the Undergraduate International Studies. We have long had an undergraduate minor in cybersecurity, and we are currently modernizing its curriculum a bit. Part of that is an information ethics class (INTSTDS 3703) that we want to make part of that minor. We have been teaching it under a temporary title for a few semesters to try it out, and we like it a lot (though it enrolls quite modestly). So, we are formalizing the offering now through the regular curricular process. As part of that I have been asked to obtain concurrence from a variety of departments, including Philosophy. Attached to this email is the syllabus for the proposed course as well as the relevant concurrence form. Please let me know if you have any questions about the course, I'm happy to provide any additional information that you might need!

I'm told that the ASC curriculum committees suggest a two-week window for concurrence replies. I'm hoping that this is OK for you?

Many thanks in advance!

Best,
Marcus.

Marcus J. Kurtz
Professor, Political Science
Director, International Studies Program
Ohio State University
https://polisci.osu.edu/people/kurtz.61