

Syllabus

Course Information

- Semester and Year: Fall 2026
- Course Title: Ethics in Information Technology
- Course Prefix and Number: CIS111
- Section Number: 18657
- Credit Hours: 3.0
- Start Date: 8/24/2026
- End Date: 10/16/2026
- Class Format: Online

Instructor Information

- Instructor: N. Dedakia
- Email: nancy.dedakia@scottsdalecc.edu
- Phone: 480-423-6574
- Office Location: CM 410; [Virtual](#);
- Office Hours: [Faculty Page](#).

Course Description

Ethical issues that arise as a result of increasing use of computers, and the responsibilities of those who work with computers, either as computer science professionals or end users. Critical inquiry and review of ethical challenges in information technology business, including professional and corporate responsibility, government regulation, fiduciary responsibilities of information, infringement of intellectual property, security risk assessment, Internet crime, identity theft, employee surveillance, privacy, compliance, social networking, and the ethics of IT corporations.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

No prerequisites or corequisites required

Course Competencies

- Describe a variety of different ethical theories.
- Describe professional business ethics and the complexities of making ethical judgments.
- Describe issues relating to corporate ownership, corporate governance, and responsiveness to corporate stakeholders.
- Explain how social media responsibility encompasses economic, legal, ethical, and privacy issues.
- Explain whistle-blowing and protection for whistle-blowers.
- Describe the major ethical challenges of operating in a healthcare environment using mobile and wireless technologies.
- Explain fiduciary responsibilities of private information.
- Describe issues with software and software liability.
- Explain cost/benefit analysis in information technology ethical decision-making.
- Describe the influence of government regulations as well as professional self-regulation and sanctions in ethical information technology decision-making.
- Explain intellectual property, copyright laws, and fair use doctrine.
- Define hate speech and defamation.
- Review contemporary issues related to workplace monitoring.
- Describe the major identity theft issues.
- Describe Information Technology security breaches and risk assessments.
- Define security policies within Information Technology.
- Describe professional codes of ethics for Information Technology professionals.
- Describe prevention, detection, and responses to Information Technology security attacks.

Texts and Course Materials

During this course, we will be leveraging uCertify Online Course material. Majority of the assignments and reading material are based off of the online course.

ETHICS-IN-AGE.AB1: Ethics for the Information Age Acc

ISBN: 9781644592441

Author: UCertify

Publisher: UCertify MMC

Price Varies ~\$130

Course Policies

The following are policies specific to this course. Students are also responsible for the college policies included on the [Student Regulations](#) page of the Maricopa Community College District website.

- You are expected to read and review Canvas Messages including announcements from the instructor as they will contain pertinent information about the course.
- Final Date to request a withdrawal from the instructor is 10/5/2026. The official date of withdrawal is the last date of attendance as determined by the student's withdrawal or as reported by the instructor. The official date of withdrawal will determine the degree of refund, if any. See Refund Policy in the [SCC College Catalog](#).
- You must complete the Final Exam in order to pass the course.
- Disagreement is welcome, but disrespect is not. Failure to meet respectful conduct standards may result in removal from the class. You are expected to:
 - Engage constructively with differing viewpoints
 - Avoid comments that marginalize, stereotype, or harm others based on identity, background, or belief
 - Approach discussions with empathy and professionalism

Late Work Policies

Assignments are due on **(Arizona time)** on the posted due date in Canvas. All work must be submitted **through Canvas** unless otherwise specified. Emailed submissions will not be accepted.

- **Late Submission Window:** Assignments may be submitted up to **48 hours after the deadline** with a **10% deduction per day late** (maximum deduction 20%).
- **No Credit:** Assignments submitted more than 48 hours after the due date will receive a **zero (0)**.
- **No Late Acceptance:** The following will not be accepted late under any circumstances:
 - Extra credit assignments
 - Projects and Exams
 - Discussion Questions

If you experience a documented medical or personal emergency, contact the instructor **before** the due date when possible. Extensions are granted only at the instructor's discretion and may require supporting documentation.

Academic Conduct

In addition to the general college Academic Honesty policy stated in the Canvas course under the Course and College Policies section, the following additional policies apply to this course:

The highest standards of academic integrity are expected of all students. The failure of any student to meet these standards may result in suspension or expulsion from the College or other sanctions as specified in the Scottsdale Community College Academic Integrity Policy. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, fabrication, tampering, plagiarism, or facilitating such activities. Specific examples of academic misconduct relating to this course include:

- Copying another student's work and turning it in as one's own.
- Submitting another student's file as your own.
- Working jointly on an assignment, with each student turning in a copy of the joint product, creating the impression that each student completed the work independently.

Each student must complete his/her own work on his/her own computer with his/her own data files. If you are caught turning in another student's work, **both students will receive a zero and may be withdrawn for academic misconduct from the class with a grade of 'Y'.** **Cheating on an exam will result in immediate withdrawal for academic misconduct from the course with a grade of 'Y'.**

Withdrawal Policy

In addition to the general college withdrawal policy, the following additional withdrawal policies apply to this course:

- Students must participate in this online course within the **first three (3) days** of the start date, or they will be withdrawn.
- Students who do not have the copies of the required materials (access to the uCertify course) by the end of the 2nd week of the course will be withdrawn.
- Failure to meet Academic Integrity and Conduct requirements and respectfully discussion requirements as stated within the syllabus may result in being withdrawn from this course.
- The official date of withdrawal is the last date of attendance as determined by the student's withdrawal or as reported by the instructor. The official date of withdrawal will determine the degree of refund, if any. See Refund Policy in the SCC College Catalog.
- Students who do not participate for **two (2) weeks consecutively (or for one (1) week consecutively during an 8-week course)** will be withdrawn for attendance. Participation is defined as follows:
 - Submitting homework on or before due dates
 - Participating in discussions/critiques over the course of a due date
 - Completing exams/quizzes on or before due dates
 - Just logging into the Canvas course does **NOT** count as participation
- Failure to complete the **CIS111 Policy Acknowledgement assignment with 100% mastery** within the required timeframe.
- **Students may request a withdraw from this course by 10/5/2026 in writing directly to the professor.**

Attendance Policy

Participation in this course is required. It will affect your grade. Discussion questions are assigned weekly along with questions regarding the recorded lecture. An absence in this online course is considered not responding to discussion questions or completing any Canvas assignments by the due date. After 2 weeks of lack of participation, you may be withdrawn from this class. The last day to request a withdrawal is 10/5/2026.

Instructional Contact Hours and Minimum Course Expectations

Instructional contact hours are the weekly time students spend directly learning with their instructor or course activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, lectures, discussions, labs, group work, and viewing recordings. Instructional contact hours vary by course; refer to the [MCCCD course bank](#) for your course's details.

Minimum course expectations include the number of hours students are expected to spend outside of class (weekly) completing coursework. Students are encouraged to use the [Time Management Calculator](#) to help estimate their weekly time commitment for classes.

Course Technologies

View the [Accessibility Statements & Privacy Policies](#) of the technologies used in this course. The [SCC Help Desk](#) provides students with a primary point of contact within SCC for college-supported technology services and technical assistance.

- Canvas
- Web Browser
- Internet Connection
- Web Camera or Smartphone Camera
- Laptop/Desktop
- Microphone/Headset
- Access to uCertify Course material

Maricopa Systems

This course uses key Maricopa systems for course management and communication.

- Canvas Learning Management System
- Student Maricopa Gmail Account
- Maricopa Open Educational Resource Learning System (MOER)

Synchronous Communication Tools

This course implements the use of web conferencing and/or other synchronous course tools.

- WebEx (For On Demand Lectures)
- Google Meet (As Needed for One on One)
- Big Blue Button (for Office Hours)

Streaming Media/Audio/Video Tools

This course uses webcasting, lecture capture systems, YouTube, and/or other streaming media services.

- YouTube

Student Assignment Tools

This course requires students to participate in or submit assignments using desktop or cloud-based applications.

- Google Products
- [Microsoft Office 365](#)
- ScreenPal
- uCertify online Course Assignments
- Chrome

Exam Proctoring Tools

Plagiarism Checker Tool (Turnitin)

Turnitin is a plagiarism check tool that matches text to a vast database of sources, including the internet, published works, commercial databases, and student work submitted to Turnitin in institutions internationally. Students must submit designated papers to Turnitin when instructed. Information and instructions for Turnitin are provided in the course. For your reference, read the [Turnitin Terms of Service](#).

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The World Economic Forum defines generative AI as “a category of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that generate new outputs based on the data they have been trained on. Unlike traditional AI systems that are designed to recognize patterns and make predictions, generative AI creates new content in the form of images, text, audio, and more.”

Some examples of generative AI tools include but are not limited to: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Stable Diffusion, GrammarlyGo, and Adobe Firefly.

Some Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Allowed in Specific Circumstances

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be permitted to use generative AI tools. In these cases, specific guidelines will be provided in the assignment details. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is a generative AI tool or if it is permitted on a specific assignment, please contact the instructor for further clarification before submitting your work.

Grading Standards and Practices

Grade Scale

Table 1 Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points Range
A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	0 – 59%

Assignments

Table 2 List of Assignments

Assignment Name	Percent of Grade
Assignments	40%
Discussion Questions	10%
Projects and Exams	50%
TOTAL:	100%

Student/Instructor Interaction

In this course, you can expect regular and substantive interaction (RSI) that aligns with Scottsdale Community College's mission to provide challenging and supportive learning experiences and the US Department of Education's requirement for regular and substantive interaction (RSI) for online courses. My commitment to your success includes the following:

- Being available during regularly scheduled office hours as stated on the faculty page.
- Sharing weekly information about the course materials, including key information, explanations, examples, and resources via in-person, recorded, and/or text-based lectures.
- Providing group or individual feedback regularly on assignments.
- Promptly responding to student questions about the course sent via the Canvas inbox.
- Regularly posting announcements about the course content and activities.
- Monitor your academic progress and communicate concerns, as needed.

Response Time

Students can expect a response time of **24-48 hours** for the instructor to respond to messages sent via the Canvas Learning Management System or @maricopa.edu email. Students can expect assignments to be graded within **one week** of the assignment's due date.

Tutoring

SCC's tutors are available online to help with your courses. You may work with an SCC tutor remotely using Google Meet, your phone, or email. Visit the [Tutoring & Learning Centers](#) page for detailed information on the five learning centers' hours and procedures.

If you need to work with a tutor outside regular hours, online and hybrid students now have access to a 24/7 online tutoring service called Brainfuse. To access Brainfuse and begin working with a tutor, visit the [SCC Online Tutoring Services Through Brainfuse](#) page.

CIS Study Lab

We urge CIS students to utilize the CIS Study Lab in CM 446. Any SCC student currently enrolled in a CIS course may use this lab. A detailed lab schedule with instructor assigned times is posted in your CANVAS course.

The CIS Study Lab will host both in-person and virtual tutoring hours. Please check the current schedule for times and locations.

MCCCD Policies

MCCCD is committed to providing a safe, fair, and accessible environment for all students. This includes laws such as the ADA and Title IX, which protect against discrimination. These statements explain your rights, available support, and where to go for help or more information. Please review the following policies:

Classroom Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) and its associated colleges are committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. physical, sensory, neurological, chronic illness, mental health, learning disabilities, or other health concerns). If you require accommodations for this course, please contact [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS) at your college.

Contact with [DRS](#) should be made as soon as possible to ensure academic needs are met in a reasonable time. Additional information can be found in the [Non-Discrimination Statement](#) and [MCCCD Non-Discrimination Policies](#).

[Addressing Incidents of Title IX Sexual Harassment](#)

Students are responsible for the information contained in this syllabus, the Syllabus page in your Canvas course and the **College Policies & Student Services** page found in the First Steps module of your Canvas course. Students will be notified by the instructor of any changes in course requirements or policies.

CIS 111 – FALL 2026 TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Table 3 Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Major items
1	8/24	Catalysts of Change and Ethical Theories	uCertify Lessons 1-2, Discussion
2	8/31	Networked Communications and Intellectual Property	uCertify Lessons 3-4, Project 1 assigned
3	9/7	Application and Review	Project 1 due , Copyright/AI Discussion
4	9/14	Privacy and Government Regulations	uCertify Lessons 5-6
5	9/21	Security and Reliability	uCertify Lessons 7-8
6	9/28	Professional Ethics and Work and Wealth	uCertify Lessons 9-10, Project 2 assigned
7	10/5	Course Review and Synthesis	Project 2 due , Final Exam opens
8	10/12	Final Exam	Final Exam due 10/16