EXPLORING THE ROLE FOR "ETHICS" AND "EMPATHY" IN THE CYBER DOMAIN

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MC MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

LEARNER CHARACTERISTICS

CMSC 110 – Online Course. Fall 2018

Characteristics of the learner:

- 19 online students ages of 18-35.

- Most are Business and Information Systems degrees.

- Exercise Science and Health Administration.

- Majority are completing their AA degree with plans to transfer.

- All demonstrate good computer skills and are comfortable using social media, smart phones, mobile apps, and cloud computing.

CMSC 110 – COMPUTER CONCEPTS

Fall 2018

Course Description:

- Computer Concepts is an introduction to the scope, significance, history, and social implications of database systems.

- It is the study of programming language hierarchy, elements of a software system, and program implementation. Exposure to hardware concepts including number systems, data representation, central processor, storage, input/output, and system configurations.

CMSC 110 – COMPUTER CONCEPTS

Fall 2018

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- Define various types of software, including operating system, utility programs, and application software.

- Describe computer systems and their functions.

- Describe social implications of computing, including computer security, ethics, and privacy issues.

- Describe the scope, significance, and history of computing.

- Differentiate among various types of computer careers, certifications, and job responsibilities.

- Identify and compare several programming languages currently in use.

- Use the Internet as a tool.

- Use the number systems, data representation, operating systems, and utility programs and be able to convert from one number system to another

GHI CONTENT

Textbook: Technology in Action includes SOME global humanities content:
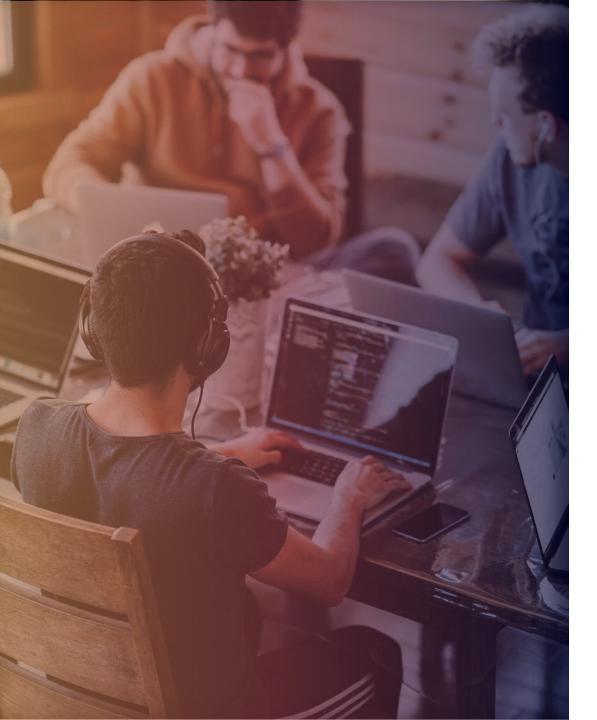
Chapter 1. Using technology to change the world

Chapter 5: Technology in Focus: Information Technology Ethics

BIG IDEA – BEYOND THE COURSE

CMSC 110 – Online Course. Fall 2018

I want students to take a deeper dive and research, analyze, and discuss the levels and effects of UNETHICAL use of technology on their lives and the lives of people around the world.

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

Upon completing this course students will be able to discuss:

Knowledge of other cultures, situations, and struggles.
The impact of the digital divide in poor countries and isolated areas that still exists today in the USA and the world.

Awareness of the complexity and interdependence of world issues.

The effects of hacktivism and cyberterrorism on innocent people, societies, and global political systems.

Empathy and the ability to see multiple perspectives.

The effects and consequences of digital spying, phishing, and unauthorized distribution of digital data on people's lives.

GHI MODULE ISLOs

✓ Knowledge of other cultures, situations, and struggles.

✓ Empathy and the ability to see multiple perspectives.

Describe the major causes of the digital divide and identify contributing factors in the US and other countries.

✓ Awareness of the complexity and interdependence of world issues.

Discuss ethical and unethical uses of technology in cyberspace and the effect it has on people, societies, and global political systems.

✓ The effects and consequences of digital spying, phishing, and unauthorized distribution of digital data on people's lives

Analyze a complicated ethical situation that relates directly to students and their invasion of privacy.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

CMSC 110 – Online Course. Spring 2018

Students will be evaluated on their ability to identify and distinguish ethical issues regarding the use of technology through:

❑Reflection papers

❑Discussions

ENABLING OUTCOMES

CMSC 110 – Online Course. Fall 2018

- Ability to work in a group. Communicate effectively with group members.

- Ability to respond timely, effectively, and appropriately in discussions.

- Willingness to watch the assigned films and respond to the questions effectively.

- Ability to conduct research online or at the library.

- Ability to express opinions and provide support for answers given.

- Complete and submit work on time.

ASSIGNMENTS WITH GLOBAL CONTENT

Students will:

1. After watching a film, students will write a response paper that analyses economic and social inequality with regard to access and use of information technologies.

2. After watching a film, students will write a response paper that discusses the emerging known and unknown global cyber security threats that directly impact individuals, societies, and global political systems.

3. Students will work in groups using real case scenarios to create a digital presentation. Students will research, role play, and find a solution to a complicated ethical situation.

ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES

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✓ Written responses and analysis

✓ Research

✓ Discussions

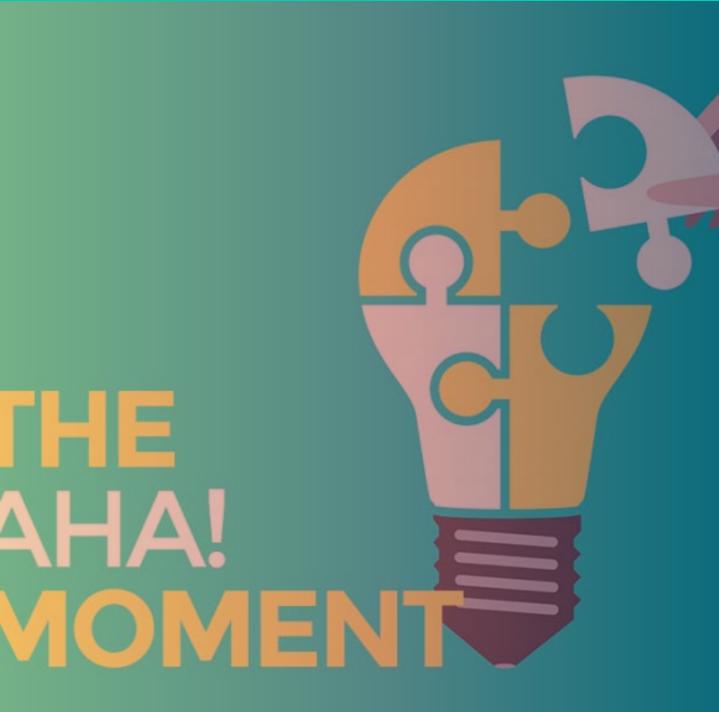✓ Group work

✓ Digital presentations

RESOURCES

Film: Digital Divide: A Hole in the Wall

Film: The Rise of the Hackers

Group Research Work: Privacy at School Ethics Project

STUDENT RESPONSES

STUDENT RESPONSE

Empathy Assignment.

The video made me very hopeful that positive change is possible to remedy the Digital Divide and other major world problems. I am very excited and very pleased to learn of the potential of the "Hole in the Wall" initiative, which yields such a significant output and thus can be a remedy to the Digital Divide. I was pleased to learn how the spread of information technology helped improve the lives of peoples throughout the world, particularly the lives of the very poor, in such a material and dramatic way.

STUDENT RESPONSE

Empathy Assignment

This film was an eye opener and makes some good points about children being able to learn anywhere through their sense of interest and wanting to learn. The benefits and life-changing experiences for the children is that they learned there is more to the world than just their community.

STUDENT RESPONSE

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Empathy Assignment

The film made me realize that this problem is everywhere. Since I come from Mali, West Africa, where lot of people do not have access to computers, specifically in the rural areas of the country. Most of them are uneducated, so they do not even give much interest to computers. They feel like it is for educated or rich people. Even though things have changed, the majority of people in rural areas do not use computers.

STUDENT RESPONSE

Empathy Assignment

This film showed me the gap that exist in our world which I thought no longer existed. From my experience in rural China, everyone in the area seemed to have phones even if they were poor farmers or factory workers. While that may be the case for China, it was interesting to see the situation for rural areas in India too.

STUDENT RESPONSE

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Ethics Assignment

On an international level, to global community will consider to be discussing the issue of ethical principles in cyberspace, as there continues to be a lack of the consensus necessary for a treaty to be entered into on the topic.

STUDENT RESPONSE

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Ethics Assignment

I think that "ethics" have a role in the cyber domain just as much as how ethics have a role in business, government, and other institutions.

STUDENT RESPONSE

Ethics Assignment

Ethics certainly have a role in the cyber domain. Ethics are often thrown out when people are online because they are concealed behind a screen, but Ethics have a place wherever there are people interacting and since more and more of our lives are happening in cyber space, ethics need to be integrated as well.

STUDENT RESPONSE

Ethics Assignment

The only ethics that should exist are those which surround the misuse of information or technology, hence the hacking debate. It would be hard to justify any ethics based solely on the fact that the internet and all the subsidiaries within are unprotected and unregulated, thus making it extremely hard to provide a universal lock on what people can and cannot do. At the same time, those who have the tools to affect another group or organization in a positive way should do so if they are following what they believe is a generally 'good' outline for their purposes.

STUDENT RESPONSE

Ethics Assignment

As helpful as that could be, I don't think it is realistic for ethics to have a role in the cyber domain. Ethics are already a tricky subject as it is, so to try to apply that to the cyber world would be extremely difficult. The cyber domain is very complex and is not at all a concrete or defined space, but to establish ethical behavior would not be impossible. It would be a lot of work to develop, but it will not just form on its own; they have to start somewhere.

MANY VOICES, ONCE COLLEGE (MVOC) FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

- The activities and discussions we had at out biweekly meetings as well the suggested readings and videos assisted me in the process of discovering new ways for enhancing the global learning outcomes of CMSC 110.

THANK YOU

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