Catalog Description
Oral presentations that pertain to the ethical practice of computer science in government, industry, and academia. Topics may include computer security, copyright, and patent law. Prerequisite: Senior standing in Computer Science.

Professor
Alison Pechenick, Senior Lecturer
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Office hours:
Mondays 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Thursdays 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Course Grade Composition
In-class group presentation 25%
Online discussion effort in response to each week’s group presentation topic 18%
Attendance (required, with one excused absence) 11%
Topical Engagement (Actions and Journal Entries) 18%
Community Engagement (Actions and Journal Entries) 18%
Thanksgiving Interview (Action and Discussion Post) 10%

Meeting Dates
Section A  Fridays  3:30–4:20 p.m. in Votey 361
Section B  Wednesdays 3:30–4:20 in Royall Tyler Theater Room 210

Online Course Spaces
Use Blackboard to access and post all materials
- Presentation pre-reads and post-commentary
- Journals
- Thanksgiving Interview
- Opportunities
- Topic Montage
- Week at a Glance and Presentation Topic Signups
Real World Ethics:

Course Component Details

Group presentation (2-3 members per group)

- By Labor Day, select topic and use designated Google doc to schedule presentation.
- By Sunday eve of your presentation week, post class readings to BB Discussion Topic.
- On day of presentation, use 20-25 minutes for formal presentation. Each member of group must speak. Devote remaining time to leading class activities (small group discussion, thought-provoking prompts, role play, …).
- Those not presenting this week will post a response to the BB Discussion topic within one week after class meeting (e.g., after-thoughts regarding topic, link to related article with one-sentence summary of its subject and relevance, …).

Topical Engagement

- Choose an additional activity you find interesting, to explore Technology & Society.
- Post your idea to designated journal space (BB).
- Complete the activity and post journal entries to document your progress and reflections.

  For example, read a book such as A Deadly Wandering, Weapons of Math Destruction or Alone Together. Attend the author’s on-campus presentation or view a Ted Talk, etc. Form a book group and meet a few times to discuss what you’ve read thus far.

Community Engagement (Service Learning)

- Identify a volunteer activity of your choice, on campus, in the area, or at home.
- Post your idea to designated journal space (BB).
- Complete the activity and post journal entries to document your progress and reflections.

Thanksgiving Interview

- Strike up conversation(s) with family and/or friends. Explore their sensibilities surrounding technology and society. What worries them? What excites them? What technological advances and/or societal behaviors have made an impact on their daily lives? Is each impact positive, negative, or neutral?
- Post to BB discussion board, describing your interview.
- Share in small groups the week we return from Thanksgiving Break.
Academic Integrity

UVM is committed to our “learning, creating, and sharing knowledge responsibly”. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with, and upholding, the UVM Code of Academic Integrity.

- When creating your presentation slides, please cite all your references.
- If your preparations involve collaborations with individuals outside your group, e.g., classmate(s) in the other section, be sure to indicate that as well.

Accommodations and Religious Observances

In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (ACCESS) as early as possible. SAS staff work with students to create reasonable and appropriate accommodations. Students are responsible for discussing their accommodation letter with the instructor.

Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. If you need to miss class to observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence in writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time.

About Your Instructor

Alison Pechenick has advanced degrees in Environmental Engineering and Computer Science, a background in General Engineering (EE concentration) and Engineering Management, and industrial experience as an engineer with IBM and General Motors.

She has conducted research using GIS data and statistical methods to study the impacts of road networks on riparian geomorphology (river health), and has worked overseas (Taiwan, Pakistan, Sweden) and in various regions within the U.S.

With early experience “stuffing” and testing circuit boards in the family business (design and manufacture of industrial process controls), Professor Pechenick has locally been a network engineer, IT support specialist, and technical trainer; loves to cruise and race sailboats; cycles, skis and snowshoes to campus; skates and kayaks on Malletts Bay; and has served as faculty advisor to the UVM Sailing Team and UVM Engineers Without Borders.