REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS:
Ethics in Information Technology
4th Edition
Author: George W. Reynolds

There will be a variety of additional assigned readings. Many of these will be available online or will be posted in the resources area of the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
A study of ethics and moral philosophy as a means for providing a framework for ethically grounded decision making in the information age. Issues will be considered from the point of view of multiple ethical theories, giving students the opportunity to think critically about the issues and draw their own conclusions.

In other words, this course is designed to teach you several useful ways of analyzing a situation so that you can identify and resolve ethical issues using logic instead of emotion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:
- Discuss ethical issues connected with information technology.
- Explain how ethical theory can be applied to a discussion and analysis of those issues.
- Address ethical and moral issues connected to information technology using a rational, coherent, consistent and systematic approach.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
This is a three credit course that meets online. Each week you will have a mix of the following:
- A reading assignment
- Journal assignment
- Project
- An online discussion and/or debate

You are free to work on the course materials whenever you wish, but encourage ALL students to establish a weekly work session schedule and stick to it. The on-line course is designed to spend no less than three hours a week on coursework, as well as, additional time to read and understand the textbook. Rubrics for online discussions and writing assignments are posted. The assignments will be accessible/posted each week beginning 1:00am on Wednesdays and will close at 11:00pm the following Tuesday.

GRADING:
Objective Measures of Class Performance
Assignments will be measured on multiple rubrics. The first rubric will be used to assess your use of the ethical analysis frameworks and processes. The second will usually be a standard rubric for classroom or online discussions or for the College’s established standards for a "C" paper.

Online Discussions: 40% (Short assignments generally less than 2 pages in length)
Writing Assignments: 30% (Longer written assignments to be approximately 3 pages in length)
Midterm: 10% (Writing Assignment)
Final: 20% (Writing Assignment)

For this course, you need to demonstrate that you can think and write critically about ethical issues, applying tools drawn from various ethical traditions as applied to concrete information technology and information societal
The ethical evaluation involves four steps, each of which must meet at least the “acceptable” level of evaluation. We will examine this methodology for ethical analysis closely in week three.

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:
The MLA Handbook defines plagiarism as follows: "Plagiarism is the act of using another person's ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source....Basically; to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else." Plagiarism often carries severe penalties, ranging from failure in a course to expulsion from school. In this class, papers which have been plagiarized will receive an F and may not be rewritten. If you have any doubt about whether you are committing plagiarism, cite your source or sources.

ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN:
In the event that Chesapeake College needs to close for an extended period of time due to a flu pandemic, severe weather event, or other emergency situation, consideration will be given to the timing and duration of the closure as follows:

1. Closure during the semester for up to one week – there will be an opportunity to make up work missed without significant alteration to the semester calendar.
2. Closure extending beyond one week (or in situations where classes are cancelled on the same days/evenings over multiple weeks) – the College may extend the length of the semester. Depending on the timing of the closure, scheduled breaks, end of semester dates, and/or the processing of final grades might be impacted.

Students can acquire information about closures on the College website or by calling 410-822-5400 or 410-228-4360. Chesapeake College courses held at off campus sites will follow the protocol of the host facility.

SPECIAL SERVICES:
If you are entitled to special accommodations either in-class or taking tests, please let me know.