

**NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title** Computer Ethics

**Course #:** CSC\* 180

**Course Description:** 3 Credits. A study in the ethics of computer usage as it applies to the Internet. Issues discussed include privacy, speech, and regulation of the Internet, security, intellectual property and codes of conduct. Case studies in each area will be examined.

**Pre-requisite/Co-requisite:** ENG\* 101 or Consent of the Instructor

**Goals:** Students are expected to

- 1) gain an understanding of the issues and concepts of moral reasoning.
- 2) explore ethical theories and their impact on the computing field.
- 3) develop an appreciation of the relation between ethics and other theoretical and empirical inquiries
- 4) enhance the abilities to read, think, and write clearly in a philosophical way
- 5) sharpen general interpretive and analytical skills

**Outcomes** Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- 1) describe widely accepted theories of ethics including
  - a) Utilitarianism,
  - b) Contractarianism
  - c) Pluralism
- 2) evaluate the major strength and weaknesses of major theories of ethics
- 3) analyze ethical dilemmas which occur in the computing field
  - a) develop decisions using major ethical theoretical approaches
  - b) develop supporting arguments to support their decisions
- 4) apply critical thinking in addressing new cases and issues as they arise