Linnæus University

Course syllabus

Faculty of Technology
Department of Informatics

4IK507 Etik och profession inom IT, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Ethics and Profession in Information Technology, 7.5 credits

Main field of study
Informatics

Subject Group
Informatics/Computer and Systems Sciences

Level of classification
Second Level

Progression
A1N

Date of Ratification
Approved 2017-03-03
Revised 2021-02-25 by Faculty of Technology. Assessment methods, examination, content and literature lists are revised. Minor changes to the Objectives.
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2021

Prerequisites
Bachelor degree or equivalent.

Objectives
Knowledge and Understanding
After completing the course students should be able to:

- demonstrate familiarity with basic ethical theories
- identify moral problems related to the use of digital technologies

Skills and Abilities
After completing the course students should be able to:

- perform an ethical analysis, specifically of a consultancy task
- present and motivate a standpoint of their own.

Evaluation Ability and Attitude
After completing the course students should be able to:

- critically analyse and reflect on professional behaviour in relation to digital technologies

Content
The course covers the following topics:

- Meaning of digital ethics
- Ethics in Digital Configured Societies
- Ethical Theories and Concepts
- Professional Codes of Conduct in IT
- Responsibility versus Requirements in IT design
- Integrity and privacy
- Freedom of Speech
- Copyright and Intellectual Property

Type of Instruction
Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and assignments. Assignment work is carried out in groups. Attendance at some activities may be mandatory.

Examination
The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.
The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail (i.e. received the grade F).

Assessment of the student's performance is made through

1. Two written and oral assignments (group work), 1.5 credits each, (Pass/Fail)
2. Written and oral examination (individual) , 4.5 credits (A-F)

Repeat examination is offered in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examination at the first and second-cycle level at Linnaeus University.

If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special pedagogical support due to a disability, the examiner has the right to give a customised exam or to have the student conduct the exam in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation
During the implementation of the course or in close conjunction with the course, a course evaluation is to be carried out. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are to be promptly presented as feedback to the students who have completed the course. Students who participate during the next course instance receive feedback at the start of the course. The course evaluation is to be carried out anonymously.

Credit Overlap
The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 4IK002 Ethics and Profession in Information Technology, 7.5 credits

Other
Grade criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the student through a special document. The student is to be informed about the grade criteria for the course by the start of the course at the latest.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material
Required reading
Ess, Charles (2013). Digital Media Ethics, 2nd Edition. John Wiley & Sons. 280 pages

Lennefors, T. Thomas (2019). Ethics in Engineering. Lund. Studentlitteratur. 266 pages

IK. Compendium. Linnæus University. 100 pages

IK, Compendium, Linnæus University, 100 pages.

Articles referenced during classes will be added.