CS 210 - Ethical and Professional Issues

Instructors:
Professor Ryan Cunningham is typically the sole instructor for the course.

Prerequisites:
The official prerequisites for the course is CS 225 and junior standing. The reason for this is so that students have the programming maturity to discuss the ethical issues of past, current, and future technology.

When to Take It:
Most students take CS 210 in late sophomore or junior year. It is common for students to take this course with CS 374 or with a time-consuming schedule.

Class Content:
This course consists of one 1-hour lecture per week, and one 1-hour discussion section. Lectures will explore ethical issues in Computer Science, such as system security, information privacy, intellectual property, etc. An i-Clicker is required for lecture attendance.

Discussions will explore these topics further and have you participate in group activities, where you will formulate arguments using one of the three ethical theories taught in the class.

Work:
Homework: There are ten 1-page essays (3000-5000 characters), assigned every week on that week's particular topic. You will also have a peer review assignment, where you read through 3-5 student essays and grade them.

Attendance: Lectures and discussion sections count attendance, although there are typically 1-2 drops per semester.

Exams: There is one midterm exam and one final exam.

Presentation: There is a final presentation at the end of the semester, where you pick a new or emerging technology and analyze its ethical issues.

Overall, this course is not a lot of work. The essay topics are interesting to think about, and lecture content provides enough background information for formulating your argument.

Life After
For students who enjoyed CS 210, consider taking classes within the Philosophy or Law department.