COE 390: Seminar (1-0-1)  
Term 091 (Fall 2009)  

Syllabus  

Section: 01  
Time: T 1:10pm-2:00pm  
Place: 24-110  

Instructor: Dr. Ahmad Almulhem  
Office: 22-324  
Phone: 860-7554  
Email: ahmadsm AT kfupm  

Office Hours: UT: 11:15-12:15, M: 11:00-12:00 and by appointment  
Web site: http://www.ccse.kfupm.edu.sa/~ahmadsm  

Catalog Description:  
The purpose of this course is to help improve students’ ability for presenting their technical work. It also teaches students about the nature of engineering as a profession, codes of professional conducts, ethics & responsibility, and the role of engineering societies and organizations world-wide. Case studies of conflict between engineering professional ethical values and external demands. The course features students’ participation in discussion held by COE faculty members and invited guests. Each student is required to deliver a short talk toward the end of the semester.  

Prerequisite: Junior Standing.  

Textbook(s) and/or other Required Material:  
There is no assigned text book for this class, but here are the recommended references:  
- http://ethics.csc.ncsu.edu/  

Grading Policy:  
- Students’ class attendance and participation in class 15%  
- Attendance and critique of two seminars 10%  
- Attendance of invited talks by guest speakers 15%  
- Written paper on computing ethics 10%  
- Student’s 1st presentation 10%  
- Student’s 2nd presentation 40%  

Attendance:  
- Attendance is required by all students  
- Official excuse for an authorized absence must be presented to the instructor no later than one week following the absence  
- More than 3 unexcused absences lead to a “DN” grade
Planned Activities:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Oct 06</td>
<td>Organizational meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>Presentation: How to prepare &amp; present a seminar. Selecting Computing related Ethics topic for the 1st presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>Paper submission &amp; Student’s 1st presentation.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Nov 03</td>
<td>Paper submission &amp; Student’s 1st presentation.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Paper submission &amp; Student’s 1st presentation. Selecting technical topic for 2nd presentation (3 articles submitted).</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>Guest presentation (2): Contemporary issues Technical article assigned by instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dec 08</td>
<td>Guest presentation (3): Contemporary issues Submitting 1st seminar attendance form.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Dec 22</td>
<td>Student 2nd presentation.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Dec 29</td>
<td>Student 2nd presentation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jan 05</td>
<td>Student 2nd presentation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Student 2nd presentation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Student 2nd presentation. Submitting 2nd seminar attendance form.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Feedback and general discussion.</td>
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Computing Ethics Paper & Presentation:

Students are asked to form teams of two students each. Each team is required to select a topic related to computing ethics and write a summary paper and make a presentation of the selected topic. The summary paper should follow the given paper template. Each team will be given 10 minutes to present their paper. Both students have to share in the presentation with 5 minutes given to each. Computing ethics topics that need to be covered include:

- **Intellectual Property**: copyright laws, patenting laws, software piracy, and related topics.
- **Privacy and Anonymity**: email privacy, privacy on the web, encryption, and related topics.
- **Computer Abuse and Crime**: hacking, worms, viruses, trojan horses, spamming, and related topics.
- **Commerce**: anticompetitive practices, antitrust law, online auctions, fraud, trade, cyber squatting, payment, web ads, and related topics.
- **Speech issues**: freedom, misinformation, netiquette, blogs, chain letters, and related topics.
- **Social-Justice issues**: environmental, equity, noise, workplace, depersonalization, and related topics.
- **Rules of practice for Engineers**: competency, objectivity, truthfulness, faithfulness, protection of the public health, safety, and welfare, and related topics.
- **Professional obligations for Engineers**: highest standards of honesty and integrity, respect of confidentiality, service to the public interest, and related topics.
Second Presentation:

Every student (no teams) is to select a recent technical topic in the field of computer engineering and prepare a professional presentation applying effective presentation techniques learned in class. Each presentation will be given 15 minutes. All presentations must be the student’s original work.

Article Selection for the 2nd presentation:

Each student is required to select three articles, among which the instructor will choose one for presentation in the class. Articles should be related to computer engineering and should be 4 pages or more. Recent (within the last three years) issues of the following publications may be used. Other sources may not be used except with the explicit approval of the instructor.

- IEEE Spectrum
- IEEE Computer Magazine
- Communications of the ACM
- IEEE Network Magazine
- Scientific American ACM, IEEE, SIAM, AT&T, BT, Intel, or IBM journal articles.