ethics component

CSC 495 is a Noctrl ACR (All-College Requirements) course:
  www.northcentralcollege.edu/academics/registrar-and-support-services/registrar/acr-courses

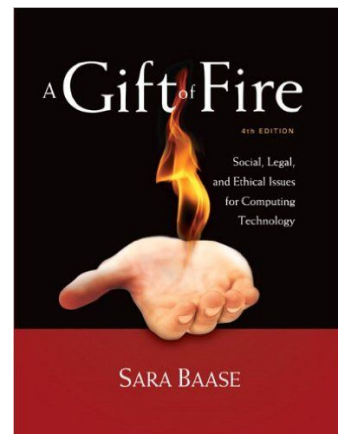Therefore, CSC 495 will include an ethics component.

Textbook

We'll use this book as a starting point for ethics discussions:
A Gift of Fire by Sara Baase, www.amzn.com/0132492679

We'll cover (parts of) these chapters:
- Ch 1 - The Pace of Change
- Ch 2 - Privacy
- Ch 3 - Freedom of Speech
- Ch 4 - Intellectual Property
- Ch 6 - Work
- Ch 9 - Professional Ethics and Responsibilities

Lecture

For each chapter:
- ❖ I'll read the chapter. Take some notes. Then distribute them to the students.
- ❖ You read the chapter. Take some notes. Bring them to lecture.
- ❖ In lecture, we'll have a class discussion on the interesting parts of the chapter.
- ❖ In my notes, I'll recommend a discussion question or two as a possible topic for one of your ethics papers.

Ethics Paper Requirements

Each student is responsible for writing 3 ethics-related papers that are worth 15% of your final grade, 5% each. Details:

➔ Your paper will usually be 2-3 pages long.
➔ Formatting: 12 point font, 1.5 to double-spaced, page numbers at the bottom of each page
➔ Please cite at least 2 (worthy) sources other than the textbook or Wikipedia.
➔ Use the "citation-sequence" format (reference list is in the order in which they are cited in your paper)
➔ Use Council of Science Editors (CSE) style for in-text citations and bibliography. Here's some online help:
   ◆ writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocCSE.html - U of Wisconsin "Council of Science Editors Documentation Style" review
   ◆ irsc.libguides.com/c.php?g=146552&p=962390 - IRSC library summary of the CSE Style Guide

I like our book's citation and bibliography style.
Here's an example of an inline citation, you can use the superscript or brackets, []:

Traumatic life events and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are endemic among American civilians [1].

And a bibliography entry for that citation:

1. Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, W. W. Norton, 1963, p. 312.

Ethics Paper Assignments

There are three assignments this term. Go!

Ethics Paper #1

Description: Write an Op-ed piece: Apple v. The Feds
Due: Wed Mar 30 at noon (start of class)
Grading: This paper is worth 5 points, or 5% of your final grade

Please write an op-ed piece explaining your support for either Apple or the United States government in the case of unlocking the San Bernardino terrorist's iPhone.

What's an op-ed piece?
The NY Times says: "Articles typically run from 400 to 1,200 words" (link).
The Wall Street Journal says: "Op-Eds: 600-1200 words, double-spaced. The piece must center on a strong argument about an issue in the news and not be a response to a Journal article. Please use jargon-free language." (link)

I'll probably ask for a printout and electronic version. Stay tuned.

Description: Write an ethics paper on a topic covered in Chapters 1-3 of our text. Please follow the guidelines above. This is **not** an op-ed like we did in paper #1. Rather, this paper is a more formal, sourced exposition.
Due: Wed Apr 27, 2016 (week 5)
Grading: This paper is worth 5 points, or 5% of your final grade

My recommended discussion questions/topics are:
- [p 43] Class Discussion Exercise 1.34 - The Encyclopedia Britannica… discuss the impact of physical (paper) versus electronic (computer memory) storage of knowledge/information.

- [p 43] Class Discussion Exercise 1.35 - Social bots… consider the ethics of social bots.

- [p 124] Class Discussion Exercise 2.49 - Your town is considering setting up a camera and face recognition system… discuss the ethics of surveillance using facial recognition systems.

- [p 124] Class Discussion Exercise 2.51 - Veterinarians implant computer chips into pets… discuss the ethics of chip implants for people (not just children).

- [p 175] Class Discussion Exercise 3.36 - Setting up a website with information about suicide… discuss the ethics of the distribution of controversial information.

- [p 175] Class Discussion Exercise 3.38 - Is the control that Google (and other large tech companies) have over the internets a threat to freedom of speech? How the the power of a large company compare to that of a government?

If you prefer to write about something else, that's fine. Please contact me with your idea, so we can discuss it before you proceed. Thanks!

Description: Write an ethics paper on a topic covered in Chapters 4, 6, or 9 of our text.
Please follow the guidelines above.
Due: Wed Jun 1, 2016 (week 10)
Grading: This paper is worth 5 points, or 5% of your final grade

My recommended discussion questions/topics are:

- 4.43 – How will both copyright laws and future technology be used to protect intellectual property?

- 4.45 – Should software be copyrightable? What would the impact be if it were not?

- 6.30 – What if other nations don't share America's rules on employee health and safety?

- 6.33 – Automated interviewing. What do you think?

- 6.34 – Women in CS. What do you think? As a contrast, what percentage of elementary school teachers are men? Nurses? If this gender differential a problem? What percentage of college students are female? What is the trend?

- 9.40 – Is it ethical to work on SkyNet? More generally, what part do ethics play in researching topics that may tap incredible power… for good or evil.

If you prefer to write about something else, that's fine. Please contact me with your idea, so we can discuss it before you proceed. Thanks!

I will be *extra persnickety* on paper requirements (see above) for our final paper. Remember, you need to cite at least 2 (worthy) sources other than the textbook or Wikipedia and use the "citation-sequence" format.