

**CTZN 110: Technology and the Common Good (3 credits)
Spring 2024**

<http://marmorstein.org/~robert/Spring2024/ctzn110.html>

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Lecture: 11:00am – 11:50am MWF, Rotunda G56

Office Hours: 2:00pm – 3:15pm MTWF or by appointment, Stevens 109

For an appointment outside regular office hours, contact me on Slack at least twenty-four hours in advance.

Course Description: This course uses an inquiry-based approach to introduce students to aspects of citizenship, with an emphasis on the development of critical thought, civil discourse, and applied ethical reasoning. Sections of the course pose discipline-specific topics and questions to facilitate students' exploration of citizenship. Students will build and refine their skills for academic success and will identify strengths and weaknesses in their oral communication. **Speaking infused.**

CTZN 110 is a **Foundation level** course, which is defined within the Civitae Core Curriculum as follows: "At the Foundations level students will engage in creative inquiry, cultivate curiosity, and develop foundational knowledge and skills."

Prerequisites: This course has no prerequisites.

Course Student Learning Outcomes: At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **identify** and **describe** relationships between a citizen's individual rights and responsibilities and the broader responsibility to the common good (**citizenship**);
2. demonstrate **critical thinking** by identifying, explaining, and analyzing arguments;
3. demonstrate **ethical reasoning** by articulating and evaluating reasons designed to support ethical conclusions;
4. create and deliver oral messages appropriate to audience, purpose, and context (**speaking infused**).

The Civitae Core Curriculum defines "speaking infused" as follows: "In speaking-infused courses, students will regularly engage in speaking opportunities, exercises, and/or assignments while working to achieve course objectives and Core Curriculum outcomes. Faculty will provide feedback and allow opportunities for students to improve their speaking skills throughout the course. At least 15% of the final course grade will be awarded from speaking-infused exercises/assignments."

Section Student Learning Outcomes: The successful student will be able to:

1. apply ethical theories to scenarios involving intellectual property, artificial intelligence, privacy, Internet access, and other technology issues.
2. articulate arguments for and against technology-related policies and legislation.

Communications Policy: The best way to reach me is to use **Slack**. Slack is a chat utility with clients for mobile devices and desktop computers. It will allow you to easily send me code snippets. Also, since I get notifications when a Slack message comes in, I am more likely to reply to your message quickly than if you send me an e-mail. Slack also allows me to easily set up a Zoom meeting (or Google Hangout) if we need to video chat.

You can also reach out to me by e-mail to marmorsteinrm@longwood.edu. However, please do not send me large files by e-mail. They take up space toward my limited quota on the mail server and cause me all sorts of headaches. **E-mail messages containing large files will be deleted unread.**

When you send me a Slack message, I instantly get a notification on my computer, tablet, and phone. Typically, I reply to Slack messages within 24 hours (often sooner) on weekdays and sometimes even on weekends. I am much slower at replying to e-mail (since I do not get a notification and have to explicitly check it). Typically, you can expect a reply to an e-mail within 48 hours (longer on weekends).

Slack is also a good way to communicate with other members of the class. You will be invited to a public #ctzn-110 channel in which you can discuss the presentations and other course topics.

Asking for help

If you are asking for help with a homework problem, you can send me a direct message through Slack. You should attach your existing work to a Slack message so that I can better understand what you need. You should do this by using the “paperclip” icon to attach the file directly to your message or by copy/pasting what you are working on to the body of the message.

Please do NOT attach screenshots or pictures taken on your phone. They are hard to read and do not allow me to compile your code without retyping it.

One last suggestion: don't “ask to ask”. I am delighted to answer questions about the projects and homework assignments and you should feel free to ask questions at any time. Asking permission to ask a question wastes my time and yours, so I appreciate direct questions.

Course Structure and Student Expectations: You should expect to spend roughly **three hours** each week attending class. You should expect to spend a minimum of **nine hours** preparing for class by reading the textbook, completing homework assignments, developing your debate cases, and rehearsing your presentations. The work is not evenly distributed over the course of the semester. You may find that you spend significantly less than nine hours on homework during the first week, but then significantly more than twelve hours at the end of the semester as you work on your presentation. Budget your time carefully so that you are able to complete your work and earn the grade you want.

Textbook: “Ethics for the Information Age”, Michael J. Quinn, Sixth edition, Pearson, ISBN: 9780133741629

Course Requirements and Major Assignments: Your grade will be determined by your performance on the course presentations(50%), the final exam (10%), participation (5%), and homework exercises(35%). There will be no midterm exam in this course.

Reading

It is important that you keep up with readings from the textbook. While the reading itself isn't graded, there is material in the textbook that enhances and extends what we cover in lecture. It is important that you master these details in order to be prepared for the homework assignments and (pop) quizzes. Reading assignments for each week are listed on the tentative course schedule (see below). I will expect you to have read the chapter for each week by the Monday of the following week.

Homework and Quizzes

Most of the homework assignments in this class will be in the form of worksheets in which you evaluate an ethical scenario using one of the ethical theories. This will prepare you for the final exam and test your understanding of the material from lecture and the textbook.

Quizzes will be given in class as unannounced pop quizzes. It is important to keep up with the weekly readings (see tentative course schedule below) so that you are prepared for the quizzes. If you miss class due to an **excused absence** I will allow you to make up the quiz, but only if you contact me within twelve hours of the absence to explain why you had to miss class.

Presentations

You will be expected to give two presentations. These will each take the form of a Lincoln-Douglas debate in which you and another student will present opposing arguments on some issue related to technology. I will come up with the topics, but you will have some freedom to choose which of the topics you present.

Debates will be 40 minute debates using a modified Lincoln-Douglas structure. I will use the rubric located at

<http://marmorstein.org/~robert/Spring2024/ctzn110/DebateRubric.pdf>

to evaluate them. This rubric combines elements of the department's speaking intensive rubric, common Lincoln-Douglas debate guidelines, and the Civitae CTZN 110 rubric.

Final Exam

The final exam for this class will be a comprehensive final covering topics from the beginning to the end of the course. It will consist largely of essay questions in which you analyze a “scenario” using one or more of the ethical theories we will explore in class.

Grading Scale: Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

	A: 91-100	A-: 90
B+: 89	B: 81-88	B-: 80
C+: 79	C: 71-78	C-: 70
D+: 69	D: 64-68	
	F: Below 64	

Note that there is no grade of D- in this class.

Honor Code: I take the honor code very seriously. Honor code offenses in this class will be dealt with harshly under the Longwood Honor Code. In addition to any penalties imposed by the Honor board, a student convicted of an Honor Code offense involving this class will receive a grade of **F** for the course. *You should consider all work in this class to be pledged work.*

There are two forms of cheating which you should be particularly careful about in this class:

1. Plagiarism

Plagiarism means taking credit for work which is not your own (see <http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/whatisplag.php>). Most forms of plagiarism involve using sources without properly citing them. Since a very significant component of your grade comes from papers and presentations, it is especially important to be careful about plagiarism in this course. Keep in mind that it is important not only that you tell me what your sources are, but also that you make it clear where and how you used them in your work. Footnotes or in-text citations are the best way to do this.

2. Academic Dishonesty

As an instructor, I have imposed certain rules and guidelines to ensure that everyone receives a fair and appropriate grade. Attempts to circumvent these rules (for instance, by copying the work of other students or using resources which I have prohibited on an exam) are a form of cheating and will not be tolerated.

All work in this class, except the presentations and class discussions, should be completed entirely on your own. However:

1. On homework assignments, you **MAY** use material from the textbook or your class notes.
2. You **MAY** receive help on papers and presentations from the campus writing center, librarians, or tutors as long as you give credit for the help you have received (a note in the margin is fine).
3. You **MAY** discuss the general nature of your paper and/or topic with other students as long as you do not show each other your work or copy from each other.
4. Any help I give you during office hours or material I share in class may be used without special citation (however, if I point you to a resource such as a web site or article, I expect you to cite it properly).

NOTE: The Honor Code applies not only to "Final Drafts" but to all work you submit, including "Rough Drafts" (and homework problems). In all your submissions, you must provide both proper citations and proper footnotes or endnotes. This includes your presentations, which must include correct citations. You should read the title and author's name when citing a source during your presentation (but not any length URLs).

Please feel free to ask me questions about academic honesty at any time.

Late Work and Grading Policy: Late work **will not be accepted** unless you have a medical condition or family emergency which prevents you from completing the assignment on time. In such circumstances, you do not need a doctor's note, but you must contact me by e-mail at least 12 hours before the assignment is due to explain the circumstances and arrange to make up the work.

Cell Phones and Laptops: Cell phones, music players, and laptops must be turned off and put away during lecture and class discussions. Violations of this policy will be considered an unexcused absence and may also affect your homework or participation grades.

Food and Drink: Please do not eat in class (it distracts me and the other students). You may bring water or other non-alcoholic beverages to class. I occasionally make exceptions to this rule for students who would otherwise miss lunch or have medical needs that require them to eat in class. If you feel that you need such an exception, you **MUST** make arrangements with me before you bring food to class. Violations of this policy will be considered an unexcused absence and may also affect your homework or participation grades.

Attendance: This class is heavily discussion-driven and will require your regular attendance. I expect you to attend class unless you are sick or engaged in a school sponsored sports event or extra-curricular activity.

In accordance with Longwood policy, missing more than 10% of scheduled class time will result in loss of one letter grade. Absences for school events or illness may be excused if you make arrangements with me within 12 hours of the missed class. Students who miss more than 25% of classes, for any reason, may at my discretion receive an F for the course in accordance with Longwood policy.

Campus Policies: This class complies with campus policies on intellectual property, disability accommodations, mental health, and reporting of crimes and sexual misconduct. For more information, see <http://www.longwood.edu/academicaffairs/syllabus-statements/>.

Tentative Course Schedule: *(Please check the course web site regularly for updated versions.)*

Week1 (Jan. 10th – 12th) Introduction to Citizenship, What is the Common Good?
Making a Logical Argument: Evidence and Proof

How to Read a Syllabus
(Skim Chapter 1)

Making a Logical Argument: Claims, Supports, and Warrants

Jan. 15th

Martin Luther King Day: No Class

Week 2 (Jan. 17th – 19th) Introduction to Ethical Theories: Relativism and Deontology
Divine Command Theory, Egoism

Academic Etiquette: E-mail, Slack, and Communication
(Read Chapter 2, sections 1 through 6)

Last Day to Drop (Jan. 10th by 5pm)

Week 3 (Jan. 22nd – 26th)

**Jan. 22 Expedition Library
(Meet in the lobby of the Greenwood Library)**

Public Speaking: Introduction to Debate
Individual Rights and the Social Contract

Week 4 (Jan. 29th – Feb. 2nd)

Ethical Theories: Utilitarianism, Consequentialism and
Virtue Ethics

Taking Notes in Class
Formal Writing in the Technical Disciplines
(Read Chapter 2, sections 7 through 11)

Week 5 (Feb. 5th – Feb. 9th)

Presentations

Week 6 (Feb. 12th – Feb. 16th)

Presentations

Week 7 (Feb. 19th – Feb. 23rd)

Presentations

Week 8 (Feb. 26th – Mar. 1st)

Spam, Censorship, Free Speech, and Obscenity
(Read Chapter 3)

Mar. 4th – Mar. 8th

Spring Break: NO CLASS

Week 9 (Mar. 11th – Mar. 15th)

Intellectual Property, Copyright, Copyleft
Abandonware, Digital Rights Management
(Read Chapters 4 and 5)

Week 10 (Mar. 18 th – Mar. 22 nd)	Privacy and Security, Social Media, Wiretapping, Hacking (Read Chapters 6 and 7)
Week 11 (Mar. 25 th – Mar. 29 th)	Presentations
Week 12 (Apr. 1 st – Apr. 5 th)	Presentations
Week 13 (Apr. 8 th – Apr. 12 th)	Presentations
Apr. 9th	Symposium on the Common Good: NO CLASS
Week 14 (Apr. 15 th – Apr. 19 th)	Professional Ethics (Read Chapters 8 and 9)
Apr. 17th	Research Day: NO CLASS
Week 15 (Apr. 22 nd – Apr. 26 th)	Catchup and Review
May 2nd	Final Exam (Thursday, 3:00pm-5:30pm)