

# Course Syllabus for DS 760: Ethics of Data Science

**NOTE:** This syllabus document contains the basic information of this course. The most current syllabus is available in the full course.

## Course Description

This course focuses on the investigation of ethical issues in computer science that ultimately also pertain to data science, including privacy, plagiarism, intellectual property rights, piracy, security, confidentiality, and many other issues. Our study of these issues begins broadly, with a look at ethical issues in computer science at large, and then moves to the narrower field of data science. We will consider ethical arguments and positions, the quality and integrity of decisions and inferences based on data, and how important cases and laws have shaped the legality, if not the morality, of data-science-related computing. Case studies will be used to investigate specific issues.

**Course Objectives** By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify and analyze social, legal, and ethical issues in computer science in general and in the subfield of data science.
- Interpret and apply a professional code of ethics relevant to the data science profession.
- Interpret the activities and choices of others within an ethical framework, and determine an appropriate action based on standards of professional conduct within computer science.
- Speak and write in a clear and logically consistent manner about ethical issues in data science.

## Grading Policy

Your mastery of course content is assessed using a variety of methods:

Activity	Percentage of Grade
Three 3-to-5-Page Papers	30%
Final 10-to-12-Page Paper	20%
Two Online Discussions	20%
Self-Graded Reading Exercises	10%
Per-Lesson Submitted Reading Question	15%

Video Presentation of Ethical Issue	5%
Total	100%

Final grades are assigned using the following scale:

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**A 90-100%**

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**B 80-89%**

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**C 70-79%**

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**D 60-69%**

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**F At or below 59%**