Syllabus 2019 Common ground subject

Information Ethics

Basic information

- **held this year:** yes
- **instructor(s):** Prof. Shinozawa, Assoc. Prof. Hara, Prof. Suganuma, Prof. Tokugawa, Prof. Mori, Assoc. Prof. Kubo, Prof. Naoe, Prof. Shizuya, Prof. Sone, Assi.Pro. Uchida, Prof. Nakao, Prof. Bekki
- **room:** Lecture Hall(206)
- **schedule:** The first half year (Thursday) 10:30-12:00
- **begins on:** 04/11

Objectives and outline

◎ April 11 Introduction to Information Ethics (Shinozawa)
Information Ethics is one of the applied ethics. Our society has become more convenient and more comfortable by means of information technology. But, at the same time, the rapid change and development of information society has brought many problems in various fields of our daily life. In studying and researching in this graduate school, it is one of the requisite trainings to think carefully about the problems of information society.

◎ April 18 The Role of Emotion in Risk Communication (Hara)
Risks associated with a technology often cause a severe conflict between experts, who wish to advance the introduction of that technology, and those who are potentially at risk. Because the response of the general public to that risks is sometimes quite emotional, experts tend to recognize the public’s response as exaggerated and irrational. But is it really appropriate to interpret it that way? In this lecture, we consider the role of public’s emotion in risk communication.

◎ April 25 Netiquette (Suganuma)
Netiquette is kind of rules, etiquettes, manners etc. to use network comfortably. In this lecture we consider the social background on which the netiquette is needed, and how and why the netiquette comes to an agreement over. Also we investigate how to regard the ethics in current networked society, through considering the actual examples of the netiquettes.

◎ May 9 “Voice and Ear” in Information Society (Tokugawa)
Most studies on information ethics tend to focus on the significance of the increase of opportunity of sending message in our life, and discuss morals in the process of creating contents. In this class, however, we will turn to ourselves as receivers and, through a metaphor of the sensitivity of our ear to others’ voice, re-conceptualize information ethics as an issue of frame of reference or practice of interpretation. Specifically, after a brief re-examination of sociological notions on segmentation of social world and politics of discourse, we will consider the necessity of continual learning for social construction of responsive ear.

◎ May 16 Robo-ethics (Mori)
The aim of “Robo-ethics” is to reflect upon the philosophical-ethical questions concerning “Robotics” or robot-engineering. We can find the key to it in the famous drama R.U.R. (1920) written by Karel Capek.

◎ May 23 Pop-Culture and Consumption (Kubo)
Pop culture such as manga or anime is now at the center of our lives. We can’t ignore it. On the other hand, there are a lot of problems. We consider about today’s pop culture in the context of the consumer
May 30 Ethics of Science and Technology (Naoe)
How to understand the relationship between science, technology and human beings has become an increasingly important issue. This lecture aims to help students understand the basic concepts of ethics of science and technology, and describe them in their own words. It deals with such concepts as Human-Computer Interaction, Participatory Design in Informatics and some social aspects of Informatics, based on the recent notion of RRI (Responsible Research and Innovation).

June 6 Cryptography (Shizuya)
We will recognize the relationships among the cryptology and other academic fields including information ethics. After overviewing the characteristics of modern cryptography, we will learn that the security of our society depends heavily on a conjecture in computational complexity theory: NP is not included in P.

June 13&20 Information Security Issues (Sone)
Overview information security measure and related topics including information resources and threat, as well as a balance with convenience of use and distribution of information. Then discuss on technical and ethical measure to secure safety and reliability of information and an information systems, including system and organization for administrators and users.

June 27 Bioethics (Nakao)
Recently, a lot of serious biological/medical issues such as euthanasia and cloning are emerging one after another that we should do decision-making based on our own view of living things and human-beings. One of the foundations on which the decision-making relies is "Bioethics". In this lecture, an overview of bioethics is given, which could make the students be aware of existence of the bioethical issues around them and think of them in their own way.

July 4 Genetic Information (Uchida)
By the development of the human genome project, our genetic information has been used as a diagnosis and the preventive medicine or a criminal investigation. Through understanding of the basic genetics, let us consider an importance of dealing with personal genetic information from an ethical point of view.

July 11&18 Intellectual Property Right (Bekki)
This course is designed to introduce fundamental aspects of Intellectual Property (IP) and Intellectual Property Right (IPR). Students are expected to deal with information without confusing a legal issue with a moral issue and ethics. Specifically, overview of patent system provides students some perspectives on IP management, including acquisition, protection and utilization of IP.

Class plan

(1) April 11 Introduction to Information Ethics (Shinozawa)
(2) April 18 The Role of Emotion in Risk Communication (Hara)
(3) April 25 Netiquette (Suganuma)
(4) May 9 "Voice and Ear" in Information Society (Tokugawa)
(5) May 16 Robo-ethics (Mori)
(6) May 23 Pop-Culture and Consumption (Kubo)
(7) May 30 Technology and Ethics (Naoe)
(8) June 6 Cryptography (Shizuya)
(9) June 13 Information Security Issues (1) (Sone)
(10) June 20 Information Security Issues (2) (Sone)
(11) June 27 Bioethics (Nakao)
(12) July 4 Genetic Information (Uchida)
(13) July 11 Intellectual Property Law (1) (Bekki)
(14) July 18 Intellectual Property Law (2) (Bekki)
(15) July 25 optional day

Evaluation
- Attendance: Minute Paper
- Three assignments are required.
- Instruction about the topic and word count will be given by each professor.

The details will be announced in the first class (Introduction).

Textbook(s)
Handouts are provided.

Web site
http://syllabus.is.tohoku.ac.jp/syllabus/syllabus.aspx
students are required to prepare and review for each of the assigned themes.