CS2160 Professional and Social Aspects of Computing

Level: 2   Credits: 10   Teaching Period: 1   Module Tutor: Mr BS Doherty

Aims
To acquaint students with the professional, legal, ethical and social issues relating to information systems engineering, and impart an awareness that external factors may affect the work of the computing professional and must receive appropriate attention.

Content
Professional
Professional aspects; professions and the professional; professional institutions; professional ethics and responsibilities; the computer professional as expert witness.
Standards, best practice.
Governmental/economic/workplace structures and organisation.

Legal
Legal background, sources of law; civil and criminal law, the courts; the impact of the European Union.
Intellectual property rights, software copyright, patents, designs, trade marks and passing off; copyright and webpages, Internet domain names, protection of computer imagers and icons, jurisdiction; confidentiality.
Computer contracts; E-commerce; software licensing; IT facilities management.
Contractual and tortious liability; defamation on the Internet; liability for defective software; product liability.
Employment and health and safety issues relating to computer technology.
Data protection law; freedom of movement of personal data; privacy in telecommunications.
Computer crime; fraud; computer misuse; viruses; threatening emails; pornography; grooming in chat rooms.

Social
Social aspects of the workplace/society at large
The impact of IT on society.

Teaching
Lectures: 22 hours; Further study, practical work (eg problem scenario analysis), examination: 78 hours

Assessment
Written exam: 100% (2 hours, January)
The exam will include questions related to practical work undertaken during the module

Module outcomes *What the student should gain from successful completion of the module*	Teaching/Learning Methods	Assessment Methods
Knowledge and Understanding		
Understanding of the responsibilities of the information systems professional. Appreciation of related social effects and ethical issues. Appreciation of the legal problems and opportunities associated with the introduction and proliferation of new technologies. Awareness of general and specific legislation concerning information systems. Understanding of the legal constraints governing the use of information technology and the dissemination of information including personal data.	Lectures supported by suitable reading	Formal examination
Intellectual Skills		
Professional/Subject-Specific Skills		
Ability to analyse an information systems scenario and identify aspects that may raise legal or ethical issues.	Case studies, analysis of problem scenarios	Formal examination
Transferable Skills		

Learning resources
`www.bcs.org.uk`
Bainbridge, Introduction to Information Technology Law, Sixth Edition, Longman, 2007
Bott, Professional Issues in Information Technology, BCS, 2005

Other study requirements to take this module
None