Subject Description Form

Subject Code	COMP3512
Subject Title	Legal Aspects, Professionalism and Ethics of Computing
Credit Value	3
Level	3
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite / Exclusion	
Objectives	The objectives of this subject are to: 1. be fully aware of the basic set of legal, ethical and security responsibilities; 2. introduce relevant professional bodies and be able to apply codes of conduct and ethical standards as a computing/IT practitioner; and 3. be in a position to deal with ethical dilemmas and legal challenges that they can expect to face when they start work.
Intended Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: *Professional/academic knowledge and skills* (a) demonstrate a basic understanding of professional issues, including contemporary legislation, and ethical considerations, from the viewpoint of computing/IT professionals; (b) apply the conceptual tools provided in the course to develop analytical skills for determining what to do in ethical and legal decision-making; *Attributes for all-roundedness* (c) communicate effectively both verbally and in writing as a professional in computing/IT; (d) develop the basic skills to work independently to solve routine problems; and (e) think and reason critically, especially on different issues related to computing/IT professional in society.

Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	Topic
	1. Introduction A brief of the development of computing/IT industry; exploration of computing technologies whose impact on ethics and legal issues are likely to grow in the near future.
	2. Ethical Management & Analysis - Traditional/philosophical ethics; policy vacuum; social context; ethical decision making; practical approach/ analysis; sample cases for ethical management. - Introduction of ethics related ISO standards and implementation cases in the industry.
	3. Information Security Ethics Introduction of cybercrime, hacker, Cyber / InfoSec / Cybersecurity Ethics and Information Security (InfoSec) management system (ISO/IEC 27001) with industrial cases.
	4. Artificial Intelligence Ethics - Introduction of AI, GenAI Fraud, AI Ethics and Safety and Autonomous vehicles case study - Implementation of AI Management System (ISO 42001)
	5. Legal Aspect – Privacy & GDPR Personal privacy; computer and privacy; relevant privacy acts such as Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, as well as, Privacy Information Management (ISO/IEC 27701)
	6. Legal Aspect – Computer Related Crime Case Studies Computer criminals; computer fraud; computer sabotage; computer forensics
	7. IP Management - Intellectual property; property rights; legal protection; philosophical basis; Patents system in Hong Kong, Patents system in China and USA, - Implementation of IP Strategy and Management Standard (ISO 56005)
	8. Professional Bodies and Code of Conduct - Role and functions of professional bodies; professional bodies for computing/IT practitioners; Impact of computing/IT professional bodies. - ICAC guest lecture and professional integrity
	9. Entrepreneurship (I) – Sustainable Development Introduction of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Circular Economy, as well as, Quality, Environment & Health and Safety management system (ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & ISO 45001) with cases of sustainability report.
	10. Entrepreneurship (II) Business Ethics, introduction of the entrepreneurship and startup, SWOT analysis and quality startup management system model

	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed				
			a	b	c	d	e
	Continuous Assessment	**100%**					
	Assignment		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Tests		✓	✓		✓	✓
	Projects		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Presentations		✓	✓	✓		✓
	Examination	**0%**					
	Total	100%					

(The table above belongs to the row labelled:)

Teaching/ Learning Methodology

This subject emphasises both ethical and legal aspects of computing/IT professional. It is intended to provide students with knowledge and practical experience on ethical, technological and legal issues related to computing. Lectures would cover the conceptual aspects. Guest lectures with external speakers provide students with knowledge from another perspective. Laboratory and tutorial sessions focus on the exercises to gain understanding both of what being a professional in computing involves and how they can most effectively deal with the challenges they will encounter.

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes

Student Study Effort Expected

Class contact:

▪ Lectures	39 Hrs.
▪ Tutorials/Lab	0 Hrs.

Other student study effort:

▪ Assignments, Quizzes, Projects, and Tests	66 Hrs.
Total student study effort	105 Hrs.

Reading List and References

References:

1. Manjikian, M. (2017). Cybersecurity ethics: an introduction. Routledge.
2. Boddington, P. (2023). AI ethics: a textbook. Springer Nature.
3. Quinn, M. J. (2024). Ethics for the information age. 9th Ed. Boston: Pearson Education.
4. ISO 37000 – Governance of Organizations: Guidance
5. ISO 37001 – Anti-bribery Management System (ABMS)
6. ISO 37002 – Whistleblowing Management System (WMS)
7. ISO 37301 – Compliance Management System (CMS)
8. ISO/IEC 27001 – Information Security Management System (ISMS)
9. ISO/IEC 27701 – Privacy Information Management (PIM)
10. ISO 42001 – Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)
11. ISO 56005 – Tools and Methods for Intellectual Property Management – guidance

	12. ISO 9001 – Quality Management System 13. ISO 14001 – Environmental Management System 14. ISO 45001 – Occupational Health and Safety Management System 15. Sustainable Development Goals - the United Nations - https://sdgs.un.org/