Computers and Society

Course Code: ~~VEC00~~ UECOO0003T
Course Title : Computers and Society
Semester : I
Credits : 2

Rationale

The objective of the course "Computers and Society" is to provide undergraduate economics students with a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between computers, technology, and society. The objective of this course is to examine the ethical, social, and economic implications of computer technology in various domains and to equip students with the knowledge and critical thinking skills required to analyse and navigate the complex issues originating from the interaction between computers and society.

Course Outline

Contents	No. of Lectures
Unit I: Introduction to Computers and Society An overview of the relationship between computers and society, Historical evolution of computers and their impact on various aspects of human life, Ethical, social, and economic implications of computer technology, Introduction to key concepts such as digital divide, privacy, and cyber security, Discussion of emerging trends in computer technology and their potential societal effects	10
Unit II: Social Media and Online Communities Influence of social media on society and individual behavior, Analysis of online communities and their impact on social interactions and identity, Ethical challenges and concerns related to social media platforms, Effects of social media on politics, activism, and social movements	10
Unit III: Digital Economy Digital economy and its impact on the society, Analysis of digital platforms and their role in shaping the economy, Understanding the challenges and opportunities of online marketplaces,	10
Unit IV: Technology, Ethics and Social Justice Ethical issues in technology development and deployment, Social justice considerations in the design and use of technology, Role of technology in addressing societal challenges and promoting equity, Ethical implications of emerging technologies (e.g., blockchain, virtual reality), Responsible innovation and designing technology for social good	10
Unit V: Social Impacts of Computing Historical perspectives on the impact of technology on social structures, Ethical frameworks and responsible technological development, Social implications of computing technologies, Study of the influence of social media on society and its economic effects,	10

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, candidates will be able to

- Understand the historical development and evolution of computers and their impact on society.
- Gain insights on various ethical issues concerning computer technology.
- Analyze the social and economic implications of the digital economy
- Critically assess the social impacts of computing technologies, including the effects of social media, online communities, and digital surveillance on social interactions, identity, and privacy.

Text Books

1. Baecker, R. (2019) *Computers and Society: Modern Perspectives*, OUP

2. Kaczmarczyk, L.C.(2011) *Computers and Society*: Computing for Good, CRC Press.

Reference Books

1. Johnson, D.G. (2009) *Computer Ethics*, (4th Edition), Pearson

2. Lupton, D. (2015) *Digital Sociology*, Routledge Press

3. Baase, S. (2013) *A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology* (4th Edition), Pearson.

4. Van Dijck, J., & Poell, T. (2013). Understanding Social Media Logic. Media and Communication, 1(1), 2-14.