USING DRAMA TO INTRODUCE ETHICS TO TECHNOLOGY
STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS
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INTRODUCTION
The poster describes the use of Joe Penhall's play Landscape with Weapon in the Unit ‘Technology and Ethics’ of the course introducing students to ethics in technology. Landscape with Weapon is a play in three acts that revolve around issues confronting an engineer who works in the weapon development industry. The play is a number of broad questions concerning intellectual property rights, duty and responsibility in product development, and ethical issues. Crucially, although the play raises big questions concerning technological development, its plot is made up of relationships between individual characters each with their own personal ethical stance, and in the development of these relationships through conversations and outcomes that vitally ethical questions arise.

INTRODUCING ETHICS IN ICS
Unit overview
Ethics is an established area of academic interest, but it is only fairly recently that the relevance of ethics to ICS started to emerge clearly outside philosophical studies. Professional bodies in Engineering and ICS have begun to recognise the importance of ethics and ethical issues in their professional practice. The core of the Unit is based upon discussion of a selection of plays and dialogues that raise ethical questions relevant to the practice of technology professionals. The examples also represent different styles of argumentation and, hence, illustrate the relevance of real-life ethical issues in ICS. The Unit includes some ideas taken from academic texts in the area of ethics, it does so to provide further background and terminology that can be used for practical analysis and discussion of real problems.

The Unit development has capitalised on the lessons and feedback gathered during a trial run course by the authors in 2008 with a small group of volunteers using FM (FlashMeeting), a videoconferencing tool available on OpenLearn. The Unit will be available in various formats for download and reuse within a Creative Commons License.

LANDSCAPE WITH WEAPON
An allegory
Landscape with Weapon centres on the development and exploitation of a weapon system. Ned, the protagonist, can be viewed as an individual who is an expert in any field, but who has the potential to cause harm. Any weapon system will inevitably cause outbursts that vital ethical questions arise. As the play unfolds and other characters appear, Ned also talks about how technology can come into conflict with personal morality, which is central to the development and manufacture of a product and involve a wide range of skilled people.

Rights
Amongst the many ethical questions raised in Landscape with Weapon, rights figure prominently, including, in particular, questions concerning Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

'Rights' are a social convention but there really is no compulsion, no way to guarantee the convention is respected. IPRs, people who do not respect the convention will disregard the rights. They will show no respect for the awarded rights, and they will not consider helping the accrual of the benefit to the rights holder. In the play, Ned has rights that are 'rights' are attributed to him as a result of having an 'idea'. His rights are respected or not by others in the play.

Ned's assumption is that those that have the idea have IPR, the IPR has value and, therefore, any proceeds accrued should be due to the person who has the idea.

When it comes to patents, the person having the idea is the one who has the IPR. However, the IPR has value and, therefore, any proceeds accrued should be due to the person who has the idea.


 REFERENCES


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