Ray,

Wayne told me that you wanted me to send you a message of support for his proposal to make CS050 a course for which students can get "Philosophical Reflections" GE credit. I am very much in support of his proposal. It seems to me that, given the subject matter and Wayne's ideas and resources, this course has the potential to cover a wider range of philosophical issues than do the two non-philosophy-department courses currently approved to count for Philosophical Reflections credit (Carter's Ethics and Society course and Jesse's Political Theory course).

See below for my earlier feedback to Wayne. Let me know if you need any additional communication from me about Wayne's proposal.

Sincerely,

Jim

-----Original Message-----
From: Jim Taylor [mailto:taylor@westmont.edu]
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2008 10:23 AM
To: 'wayne iba'
Subject: RE: Revised syllabus for CS050 course we discussed

Wayne,

I like this revised syllabus a lot. I especially like how you explain the importance of asking metaphysical and epistemological questions about information and knowledge in preparation for discussing questions of value about the role of information technology in human life. In light of this focus, another title you could consider for the course is: "Information and Computation: History, Concepts, and Values." I worry a little bit about the quantity of texts you are thinking of using. But you are in a better position than I am to know how much and what kind of reading is suitable given these resources and your purposes.

Your mention of Floridi's book intrigued me, so I googled his name and found his website. It contains a reference to another book you might consider using as a resource (for at least supplementary reading): "The Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Computation and Information" (Floridi wrote the introduction to this volume, entitled "What is the Philosophy of Information?"). But perhaps you already knew of this book.

I am very encouraged by your syllabus. I recommend that you highlight the section in which you explain the role of metaphysical and epistemological questions in the consideration of questions of value. Then submit the syllabus to the GE Committee with the appropriate submission form. Though they may ask you to tweak it for their purposes, I think it is good enough at present to get the conversation with them going.

Sincerely,

Jim