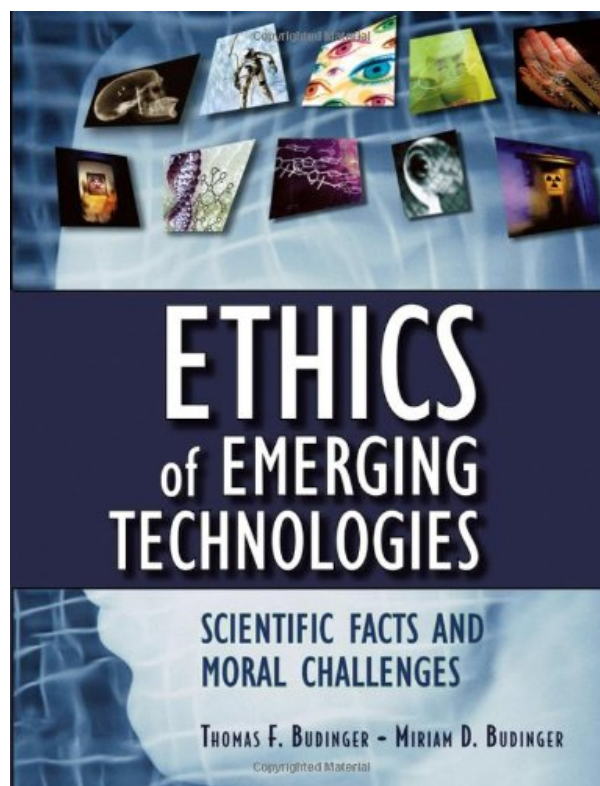
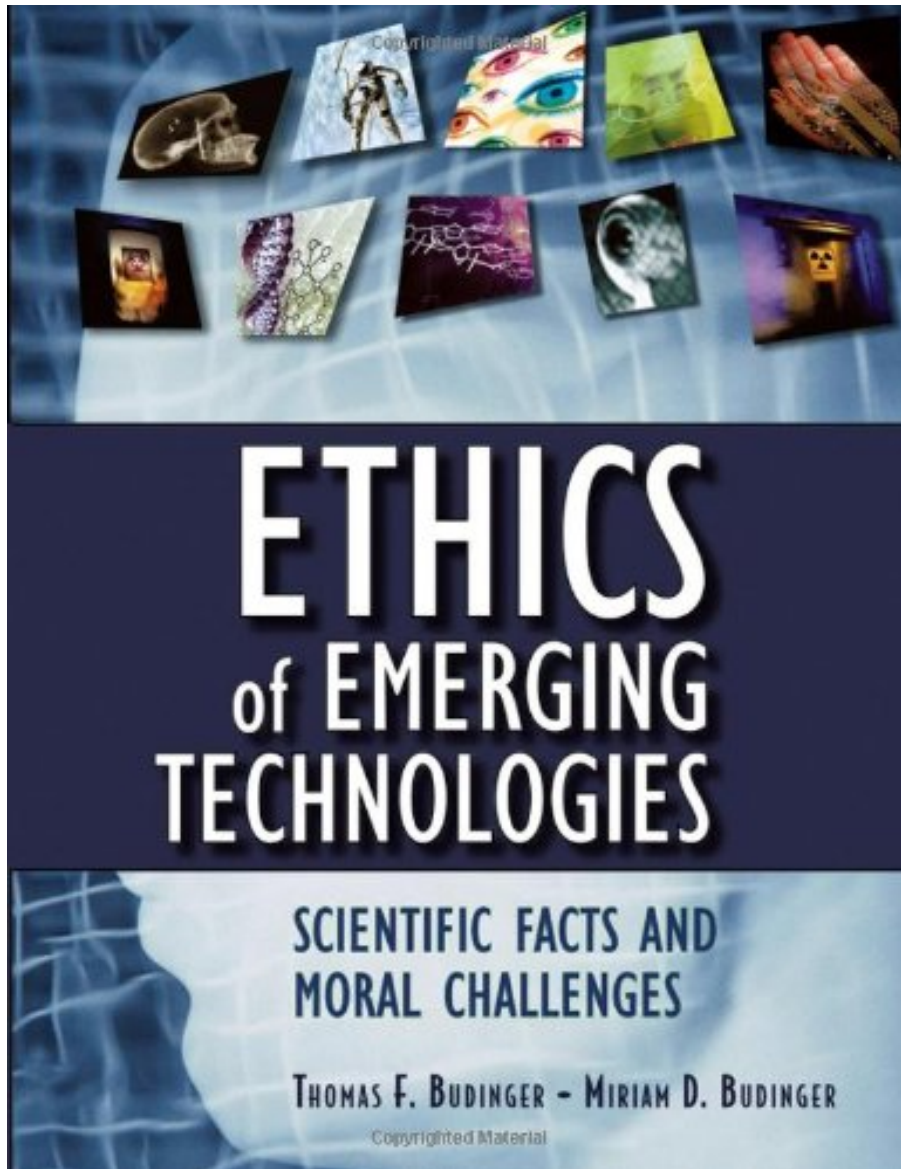


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Review

"While *Ethics of Emerging Technologies* is written as a text, it also is valuable and enjoyable reading for any scientific professional and especially for scientific leaders in their institution." (Science Direct, September 2006)

From the Back Cover

An insightful guide to understanding and navigating the ethical issues faced by anyone affected by the ethical dilemmas associated with current and emerging technologies

Ethics of Emerging Technologies provides the background, insight, and tools for approaching and solving ethical dilemmas across a broad range of topics. The text discusses ethical problems, using examples and reasoning tools that will aid engineers, scientists, managers, administrators, and the public who wish to understand risks, benefits, and possible approaches to resolving conflicts associated with new technologies in the context of the global community.

Solutions we choose to ethical dilemmas accompanying new technologies will profoundly affect future generations. Scientific facts and guides to decision-making for all associated with emerging technologies are presented. Some of the topics are:

- Human health and environmental effects of alternative energy production methods
- Communications and privacy
- Plagiarism and authorship
- Genetic modification of organisms
- Human and animal experimentation
- Synthetic biology and bioterrorism
- Confidentiality in science, engineering, and business communications

- Risks and consequences of enhancing human beings through new technologies
- Cloning of human beings and stem cell research
- Brain modifications
- Space exploration

About the Author

THOMAS F. BUDINGER, MD, PhD, is Professor in the Department of Bioengineering and the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of California, Berkeley; Professor in Residence in the Department of Radiology at the University of California, San Francisco; head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine & Functional Imaging at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine.

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Great book!

By error

This is a really good book. VERY in depth and VERY detailed about a heck of a lot of pressing issues today. It really is a nice reference to have without having to google and search through a lot of filler material, this book gets straight to the point of all the current emerging issues.

Examples, graphs, statistics, equations, and a lot of references help you to understand not only what the issue is about, but most importantly the differing points of views that may exist, the moral dilemmas, and possible solutions.

I not only enjoyed reading a lot of these just for my own pleasure in order to quench my appetite for some subjects and also strengthen my own arguments should I ever get into a discussion about the topics; but being in medical school, I know a lot of these issues WILL come up in practical scenarios and must be addressed, this book will help me do that in many ways.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

An important book, should be a required course at all technical colleges and business schools.

By ZenWoman

This is a textbook designed for an ethics course but makes fascinating reading for anyone who is interested in the ethical dilemmas that come with advent of technology. It made me think of business school where Ethics was a required course and a majority of the students voted for it as the best course they took during business school. What made this course so very powerful and personal was that it was designed around real cases and moral dilemmas (e.g. Enron, Fortune companies overlooking child labor). Through discussion we realized what paths were possible and what paths were actually taken by the leaders of the companies. At the end of the class the professor always left us with a question hanging in the air "What would you do if you were in this situation?". It was always sobering as the class sat in silence, minutes after the professor left, reaching deep into their psyche to determine what they might have done given similar circumstances. The answers were not always pleasant and differed based on cultural differences (cultural relativism) or "duty ethics", some of the concepts discussed in this book. It was a life defining course for me, and helped me understand how small business decisions can have far reaching consequences.

I gave so much background about my business school experience to make the argument that ethics should be a mandatory course for any undergraduate and graduate college. And this book is a good text book for such a course. Although it focuses on technology and will be especially relevant to technical students - engineering/medical, it should be required for all colleges as technology touches us in every aspect of life.

Often we make decisions which concern technology even in our daily lives - to use material found on the web in our write up, or to send spam mail, without thinking about ethics and consequences of our actions. This book lays out the basic premises in the beginning and then delves into each of the emerging technology topics one by one. The "Problem Sets" at the end of each chapter are designed so that they can be undertaken before you delve into the chapter. Some of them require legwork, such as, going to a store and asking them how they will use the information acquired when signing up for the club card. Or email sites who do not have an explicitly stated privacy policy. Others require research - such as forming an opinion on the Kyoto protocol or discuss how far they would go to implement projects that have environmental impact. This is the first book I have seen on this subject and although some technologies may have already advanced beyond what is stated in the book, the fundamental questions remain the same.

Here is how the book is laid out:

- Ethical Principles - At the beginning the book defines the various principles as applied to reasoning/decision making.
- Ethics in Scientific Research
- IT Ethics
- Business Ethics
- Environmental Ethics
- Ethics of genetically modified organisms
- Medical ethics
- Ethics of human and animal experimentation
- Ethics of assisted and reproductive technologies
- Ethics of stem cell technologies

- Ethics of Enhancement technologies (Gene therapy etc.)
- Ethics of Emerging technologies

As you can see from this list there is no subject that you may have not thought about as all of these touch us in our daily lives, if only through media hype. This is a good text book and will give college students the right material to delve into the ethics of the decisions they will be making in their future lives.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Ethics of Emerging Technologies: Mediating Solutions for Progressive Ideologies and Traditional Moral Values

By Johannes Platonicus

'Ethics of Emerging Technologies' will be a valuable resource-tool for scientists, technicians, engineers, businessmen, academics, politicians, doctors and, of course, for philosophers. This volume is important because it addresses the plethora of moral questions that have arisen, or will arise, as a consequence of recent scientific innovations and advancing technologies. Such topics as the Ethics of Stem-Cell Research, of Cloning, of Human and Animal Experimentation, of the Environment and of Emerging Technologies, are placed under the "microscope" of ethical scrutiny. Ultimately, the analysis of these controversial topics yields tons of scientific facts that are necessary for the solution of these issues in light of both progressive ideologies and traditional moral beliefs. The text is clear in its presentation of the facts, highlighting key points, providing detailed charts, tables and graphs. Also included is an exhaustive bibliography, pointing to relevant sources and a definitive and comprehensive glossary elucidating major terms. Overall, 'Ethics of Emerging Technologies' should be standard text-book reading at universities, hospitals, institutions and all general professions in the work-force.

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