



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 314 Lec 1
“Information Technology Ethics”
Spring Term 2019

Course Outline

Lectures: TR 17:00 – 19:45 in SA 129

Instructor: Soohyun Ahn

Office: SS 1229

Office Phone: 403-220-7518

Email: soohyun.ahn@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:00 – 15:00 or by appointment

Tutorials: TR 19:45 – 20:35 in SA 129

Course Description

In this course, we explore a number of ethical issues associated with information technology including privacy, intellectual property, online hate speech, online friendship, algorithmic decision making, the meaning of humanity, and digital divide. All the issues we discuss converge into the consideration of how to stop inequality and discrimination with the use of information technology and to promote social justice in this era.

Prerequisites:

None

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Apply their philosophical learning to information technology related issues and to articulate why philosophical understanding is valuable in such debates.
- Communicate effectively and constructively with peers through discussion and written reports.
- Write a coherent philosophical essay regarding information technology issues.

Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources):

Readings and additional materials will be posted on via D2L for this class. All readings are available through the University of Calgary Library website or other online sources.

Some of the following topics will be covered:

- Privacy
- Intellectual Property
- Cybersecurity and Hacktivism
- Digital Identity/ Online Friendship
- Digital Citizenship and Social Media Activism
- Virtual Reality
- Humanity and Technology
- Algorithmic Decision Making
- Digital Divide & Digital Inclusion

Course Assessment

- **Quizzes** (15%, 3 points each)
Throughout the course of the semester, there will be five in-class quizzes. They are designed so that if you have done the reading, you should be able to answer them easily. Quizzes will be held at the start of class without prior notice.
- **Mid-term Exam** (25%)
An in-class exam will be on **May 28th**.
- **Case Analyses** (10%, 5 points each)
Once a topic is covered in class, you can submit a case analysis related to the topic. Come up with a case that has not been covered during the class and provide a clear and concise philosophical reflection on it. The template will be posted on via D2L. The first analysis is due by **May 17th**, and the second by **May 31th**.
- **Term Paper and Group Work** (50%)
 - **Rough Draft Paper** (5%)
You should submit a rough draft paper electronically via D2L by 9 am on **June 7th**.
The draft paper should be at least 3 pages in length. After collecting all the draft papers, I will distribute them to you via email. Each one of you will receive 3-4 drafts of your peers on **June 7th**. That means, the class will be divided into groups of 3-4 members.
 - **Written Preparation for Group Discussion** (10%)
Once you receive drafts of your peers on **June 7th**, you should read all the papers and reflect on them. Then write as precisely as you can what you take to be the main point of each paper. Also provide what you take to be the strengths of the papers and any points that can be improved.
You are required to submit written preparations on **June 11th**. Based on these preparations, you will review and discuss your paper with your group members. The aim of the group discussion is to help each other write better papers.
 - **Final Paper** (35%)
The final paper will be 5-7 pages in length (max. 2,000 words).
More information will be handed out and discussed during the class.
You are welcome to see me to discuss your paper.
The final paper is due via D2L by 11:59 pm on **June 14th**.
- Final grades will be awarded as follows:

96 - 100 = A+	80 - 84 = B+	65 - 69 = C+	50 - 54 = D+
90 - 95 = A	75 - 79 = B	60 - 64 = C	45 - 49 = D
85 - 89 = A-	70 - 74 = B-	55 - 59 = C-	0 - 44 = F
- Class attendance is encouraged for success.
- There will be a guest lecture (TBD).
- No single assignment is required to pass the course.
- Note that there will be **no registrar-scheduled final exam** for this course.

Policy on Late Assignments

No make-up exams are permitted unless a medical note is provided and/or permission is granted by the instructor prior to the set date. Without an acceptable excuse, penalties for late assignments will be a half letter grade for each day the assignment is late, to a maximum of the equivalent of 4 full letter grades. Missing assignments receive a zero.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. See the relevant section K.5 on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>.

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising> for detailed information on common academic concerns

Advice on Philosophy Courses

You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca>, or contact one of Philosophy's Undergraduate Advisors. David Dick – Undergraduate Program Director (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty – Honors Advisor (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca) or Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prerequisite Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prerequisites for a course, email the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA), Rebecca Lesser (rebecca.lesser@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca , arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>

May 7 (Tue) Privacy	May 9 (Thu) Privacy
Reading 1: Tony Doyle (2013) “Posner on Privacy” (11 pages)	Reading 2: Daniel Solove (2007) “‘I’ve Got Nothing to Hide’ and Other Misunderstandings of Privacy” (28 pages)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course overview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 1 • Watch & Discuss: State of Surveillance – VICE on HBO (27m) • Watch & Discuss: Daniel Solove: Nothing to Hide, Nothing to Fear? (24m) • Kafka, The Trial • Case Analysis instructions
May 14 (Tue) Intellectual Property	May 16 (Thu) Intellectual Property
Reading 3: Kenneth Einar Himma (2008) “The Justification of Intellectual Property: Contemporary Philosophical Disputes” (28 pages)	Reading 4: Vică and Socaciu (2019) “Mind the Gap! How the Digital Turn Upsets Intellectual Property” (16 pages)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 2 • Watch & Discuss: Rip! A Remix Manifesto (1h 26m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch & Discuss: Lawrence Lessig on Colbert Report (6m) • First case analysis due by 17th
May 21 (Tue) Hate Speech in Cyberspace	May 23 (Thu) Social Networking and Ethics
Reading 5: Alex Brown (2017) “What is so special about online (as compared to offline) hate speech?” (25 pages)	Reading 6: Shannon Vallor (2012) “Flourishing on Facebook: Virtue Friendship and New Social Media” (14 pages)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch & Discuss: Charlottesville: Race and Terror – VICE News Tonight on HBO (22m) • Watch & Discuss: 5 Reasons Why We Need Hate Speech We The Internet TV (15m) • Term Paper Topics and Instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 3 • Watch & Discuss: TED How our friendship survives our opposing politics (14m) • Watch & Discuss: Sherry Turkle: Reclaiming Conversation (25m) • Mid-term exam instructions
May 28 (Tue) Mid-Term Exam	May 30 (Thu) Algorithmic Decision Making
Reading: None	Reading 7: Sidney Perkowitz (2016) “ Crimes of the future ” (magazine article)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch & Discuss: PredPol- The Science Behind Predicting Crime (4m) • Watch & Discuss: The Open Mind: Automating Inequality - Virginia Eubanks (28m) • Second case analysis due by 31st
June 4 (Tue) Algorithmic Decision Making	June 6 (Thu) Humanity and Technology
Reading 8: Nicholas Diakopoulos (2018) “The Algorithms Beat” (6 pages)	Reading: Margaret Boden (2018) “ Robot says: Whatever ” (magazine article)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 4 • Mid-term exam review • SEP entry: Computing and Moral Responsibility • Watch & Discuss: TED How I'm fighting bias in algorithms (9m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 5 • Watch & Discuss: TED Why we have an emotional connection to robots (12m) • Watch & Discuss: TED How to get empowered, not overpowered, by AI (18m) • Watch & Discuss: “Her” (2013) excerpt • Rough draft paper due by 7th
June 11 (Tue) Guest Lecture/ Group Work	June 13 (Thu) Digital Inclusion
Reading: None	Reading 9: Mark Warschauer (2008) “Whither the digital divide?” (book chapter, 10 pages)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest Lecture on Data Representation, Collection, and Manipulation in the Genomic Assisted Tree Breeding• Groupwork (40m)• Checklist for final paper• Written preparation for group discussion due	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final paper is due by 14th• Watch & Discuss: "I, Daniel Blake" (2016) 1h 40m
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