PHIL 314 Lec 01
Information Technology Ethics
SPRING 2020
TuTh 18:00 – 20:00 online

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Joshua Stein
Email: joshua.stein@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Thursday, 5:00pm-6:00pm or by appointment, available via Zoom on either an open link (to be posted in class materials) or in a private call (for students who want to discuss an issue one on one)

Teaching Assistant Name: Ananya Chattoraj
Email: ananya.chattoraj@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: TBD

COURSE INFORMATION
A critical and analytical examination of ethical and legal problems arising in and about information technology. Focal points of the course are issues in privacy and surveillance, free speech in and on internet platforms, and the ethics of designing for information technology engineering. The course incorporates critical discussions of contemporary issues (net neutrality; public utilities; Coronavirus and public health; extremist speech and recruiting) in the course materials for the most up-to-date, relevant, and useful knowledge on the state of the field.

PREREQUISITE(S)
There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
- **Competence in Technological Issues:** Students will have and demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in information technology including: privacy and security, algorithmic accountability, and intellectual property.
- **Competence in Ethical and Social Analysis:** Students will engage in ethical criticism and analysis, using core concepts in ethical theory.
- **Application of Analysis to Technological Issues:** Students will show that they can apply the core concepts of ethical theory to the contemporary issues in information technology.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS
All readings (required and optional) are available either on D2L as a PDF or as a link, subject to university policies and Canadian copyright law.
William J. Talbot. (2013) "Consequentialism and Human Rights." Philosophy Compass 8(11): 1030-1040. Excerpts; PDF on D2L
United States v Antoine Jones.
Zeynep Tufekci. (2014) "Big Data: Don't Let the Billions of Data Points Blind You to the Problem of Too Few Sources to Check the Results." Brookings Institution.
Suketu Gandhi, et al. (2018) "Demystifying Data Monetization." MIT Sloan Management Review.
David van Mill. (2017) "Freedom of Speech." Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Alexander Brown (2018). "What is so special about online (as compared to offline) hate speech?" Ethnicities. PDF on D2L.

Benjamin Wittes and Zoe Bedell. "Twitter, Isis, and Civil Liability." Lawfare Blog

Regina Rini (2019) "Deep Fakes are Coming. We Can No Longer Believe What We See." New York Times, The Stone.

Kenneth Himma. (2008) "The Justification of Intellectual Property: Contemporary Philosophical Disputes." Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 59(7): 1143-1161.

Malarie Gokey. 2015. "FCC Net Neutrality Timeline." Digital Trends.

Lawrence Lessig. (1996) "Intellectual Property and Code." Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development 11(3): 655-639. PDF on D2L.

Lawrence Lessig (2018) "Free Culture." L. Revista Communiars 1: 99-108.

Nicholas Diakopoulos. (2016) "Accountability in Algorithmic Decision Making." Communications of the ACM 59(2): 56-62.

Zyenep Tufekci. (2015) "Algorithmic Harms beyond Facebook and Google." Colorado Technology Law Journal.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION
Thought Experiment Responses: 25% (available twice weekly, prior to Zoom class meetings)
Unit Exams: 50% (at the conclusion of each unit)
Term Paper: 25% (at the end of due June 25th)
There will be four (4) exams, administered by D2L and all weighted equally in determining the grade for unit exams. Unit exams will be available for a multiple day period on D2L, and students will have twenty-four (24) hours to complete the exam from whenever they choose to start.
Thought experiment responses and term papers will be submitted via D2L.
Term papers are due the last day of classes.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Accommodations
It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

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: ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments
Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html

Student Support and Resources
Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre

- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising
If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator phildept@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support
The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Online Resources and Electronic Devices
Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. 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.

Academic Misconduct/Honesty
Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is 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. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies
The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf