



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHIL 314 Lec 01**  
**Information Technology Ethics**  
**Summer 2019**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: Tu/Th 5:00 –7:45 pm in SA 129**

**Instructor: Joshua Stein**  
**Office: SS 1227**  
**Office Phone: 1 (403) 220-6463 (This is the office phone; email is a better mode of contact)**  
**Email: Joshua.stein@ucalgary.ca**  
**Office Hours: Th, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

**Course Description**

A critical and analytical examination of ethical and legal problems arising in and about information technology. May include hacking, online privacy, intellectual property rights, artificial intelligence, globalization and regulation issues, cheating in online games, and others.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Course 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 Texts (including electronic resources):**

All texts are available on D2L or provided in links via the course reading list.

- SCOTUS Decisions in *United States v Jones* (2011), excerpts
- Richard Lempert, *PRISM and Boundless Informant: Is NSA Surveillance a Threat*, Brookings Institute (2013)
- Slovvetta Bansal et al. "Big Data for Infectious Disease Surveillance and Modeling." *The Journal of Infectious Disease* (2016)
- John Willbanks and Eric Topol, *Stop the Privatization of Health Data*. *Nature* (2016)
- Ali Al-Khoury "Data Ownership: Who Owns "My Data"?" *International Journal of Management and Information Technology* (2012)
- James Vincent, *Transgender YouTubers have their videos grabbed to train facial recognition software*, *The Verge* (2017)
- Alexander Brown, "What is so special about online (as compared to offline) hate speech?" *Ethnicities* (2018)
- Zeynep Tufekci and Nilagia McCoy, *Technology in Global Activism, Uprisings and Social Movements*, *The Shorenstein Center* (2016)

- Christopher Van Blarcum, “Internet Hate Speech: The European Framework and the Emerging American Haven,” Washington and Lee Law Review (2005)
- Benjamin Wittes and Zoe Bedell, Twitter, ISIS, and Civil Liability, Lawfare Blog
- Larence Lessig, “Intellectual Property and Code,” Journal of Civil Rights and Economics (1996)
- Constantin Vica and Emanuel-Mihail Socaciu, “Mind the Gay!” How the Digital Turn Upsets Intellectual Property,” Science and Engineering Ethics (2019)
- Panos Constantinides, Ola Henfridsson, and Geoffrey Parker, “Introduction: Platforms and Infrastructure in the Digital Age,” excerpts
- Nicholas Diakopoulos, “Accountability in Algorithmic Decision Making,” Communications of the ACM (2016)
- Zeynep Tufekci, “Algorithmic Harms beyond Facebook and Google: Emergent Challenges of Computational Agency,” Colorado Technology Law Journal (2015)

### Course Assessment

- **Pre-Class Thought Experiments Polls:** 10% of the grade (complete 7-of-9 for full credit)
  - Each thought experiment is available on D2L and will close 15 minutes before the start of the class for which it is due.
- **Pre-Class Thought Experiment Responses:** 15% of the grade (complete 3-of-9 for full credit)
  - Also due 15 minutes before the start of the class on the D2L message board. Responses should be approximately 300-500 words. Citations of the readings are not required, but welcome.
- **Term Paper:** 25%
  - Term Papers should be approximately 2,500-3,500 words.
  - Papers should be submitted through D2L no later than the start of class on Tuesday, August 7.
- **Mid-Term Exam:** 25%
  - To be completed on D2L following class on Thursday, July 18 and due before class Tuesday, July 23.
  - All exams are open-note and completed by the student on their own time, rather than in class. There will be a 3 hour time limit from the opening of the exam in D2L to completion.
- **Final Exam:** 25%
  - To be completed on D2L following class Thursday, August 8 and due before 11:59, Sunday, August 11.

<b>A+ 98 - 100</b>	<b>B+ 86 – 89</b>	<b>C+ 74 – 77</b>	<b>D+ 62 – 65</b>
<b>A 94 – 97</b>	<b>B 82 – 85</b>	<b>C 70 – 73</b>	<b>D 58 – 61</b>
<b>A- 90 - 93</b>	<b>B- 78 – 81</b>	<b>C- 66 – 69</b>	<b>F 0 – 57</b>

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty – Honors Advisor ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)) or Allen Habib ([anhabib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anhabib@ucalgary.ca)).

### **Registration and Prerequisite Waivers**

If you have questions regarding registration, or are seeking permission to waive the prerequisites for a course, email the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA), Rebecca Lesser ([rebecca.lesser@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca) , [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca) , [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca) , [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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/>