PHIL 314
Information Technology Ethics
Summer 2020
Online

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Ananya Chattoraj
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Office: Online meetings only for Summer 2020
Office Hours: Thursdays 5pm – 6pm on Zoom or by appointment

Teaching Assistant Name: Joshua Stein
Email: joshua.stein@ucalgary.ca
Office: Online meetings only for Summer 2020
Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

This course is an applied ethics course in information technology. The purpose of this course is to bring greater awareness of the ethical issues surrounding information technology creation, use, and distribution.

Since this course has been moved online, all “lecturing” will occur asynchronously. Office hours will be scheduled synchronously based on student availability.

The following topics will be covered:
1. What’s ethics got to do with it?
2. Building tech – data and databases
3. Building tech – algorithmic bias
4. Using tech – proprietary tech
5. Using tech – deep fakes + AI
6. Using tech – games and virtual worlds
7. Distributing tech – digital divide and access

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Broad knowledge of the pervasiveness of ethical issues in the tech industry
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS
All readings will be available on D2L as a link, subject to university policies and Canadian copyright law.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION
Assessment Components and Grading Schemes
No particular assignment is required to pass the course as a whole. All assignments should be submitted on D2L dropbox or the appropriate quiz assessment. Detailed information on assignments can be found on D2L. Students must take a screenshot of the D2L dropbox submission confirmation.

Assignments:
• Reading Quizzes: 30% of the grade. Due: July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, Aug 7, Aug 12. Lowest grade is dropped.
• Reading Questions: 5% (P/F). Due: July 2, July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27, Aug 4. Lowest grade is dropped.
• Very Short Paper Draft: 15% of the grade. 1000 words max. Due July 24 before 11:59pm.
• Very Short Paper: 25%. 1500 words max. Due August 10 before 11:59pm if you want comments. Due August 14 before 11:59pm if you do not want comments.
• Current Events Analysis: 25% of the grade. Due August 12 before 11:59pm.

Late quizzes, questions, or paper draft will only be accepted on a case by case basis. Late final paper and current events analysis will be penalized 10% per day (penalty for final paper starts August 15 and penalty for current events analysis starts August 13).

Exams
• There is no registrar scheduled final exam for this course.
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**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 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

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments directly to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).