UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 314 Lec 02
Information Technology Ethics
Summer 2020
Online

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Brandon Beasley
Email: bbeasley@ucalgary.ca
Office: N/A
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00pm-5:00pm, or by appointment, via Zoom
Office Phone: N/A

Teaching Assistant Name: Husna Farooqui
Email: husna.farooqui@ucalgary.ca
Office: N/A
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm-2:00pm, or by appointment, via Zoom
Office Phone: N/A

COURSE INFORMATION
A critical and analytical examination of ethical and moral problems arising in and about information technology. Topics include: privacy; intellectual property; the ethics of algorithms; human-computer enhancement; online speech and expression; hacking; virtual reality; and issues relating to artificial intelligence, such as the moral status of artificial beings and the existential risk of superintelligence.

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Understand the nature, purpose, and methods of philosophical ethical inquiry and the basics of moral theory.
- Identify and appreciate the core issues, debates, and positions in information technology ethics and understand why they are important.
- Understand and critically respond to texts by identifying, extracting, and analyzing the philosophical arguments therein.
- Write clearly and cogently about the arguments concerning the ethical issues covered in the course, including: summarizing arguments, critically evaluating arguments, and making new arguments.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS
All readings will be linked to or posted on D2L.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS & ACCESSIBILITY
I want you to do well and succeed in this course, but I know that life happens, and we are currently living in a time more difficult than usual. If you have any concerns about your ability to complete course

material or assignments—these might be personal, health-related (including mental health), family-related (e.g. care-giving), etc.—please email me or see me in office hours, because I am happy to discuss this with you. The sooner I know about these, the earlier we can discuss possible adjustments or alternative arrangements.

It is the student's responsibility to request official 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 me.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION
Assessment Components
Weekly Critical Responses: Six (6), worth 5% each, 30% total (1-2 pages); **Due on Mondays starting July 6th , except the week of August 3rd, when it is due on Tuesday August 4th, because of Family Day.**
Mid-Term Assignment: 35%; **Due on or around July 31st (exact date will be confirmed in mid-July).**
End-of-Term Assignment: 35%; **Due on August 18th.**

Assignments will be submitted on D2L. **Save a screenshot of your submission!** Glitches can, and have, happened, so it is in your interest to make sure you have a record of submission.

Writing and the grading thereof is a major factor in the evaluation of a student's work. However, you have some flexibility when it comes to the format of course assignments, so long as you can demonstrate the appropriate knowledge, understanding, and critical thought. I will explain more about this in a video uploaded to D2L.

There will be no mid-term exams nor a registrar-scheduled final exam.

Grading Scheme
Assignments will be graded on a scale from A+ to F per the following standard. I will post a grading rubric on D2L. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.30	Outstanding performance.
A	4.00	Excellent performance.
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance.
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance.
B	3.00	Good performance.
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance.
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance.
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance.
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
D+	1.30	Marginal pass.
D	1.00	Minimal pass.

F   0.00   Failure. Did not meet requirements.

The arithmetic used to calculate your final grade will follow this formula:
(Each Critical Response)(.05) + (Take-Home Mid-Term)(.35) + (Term Paper)(.35) = Final Grade

However, in cases of a significant, steadily rising trajectory, later work will be weighted more heavily than earlier work.

Note that, per University regulations, the highest possible Grade Point Value for your final course grade is 4.0, even if you are awarded an A+. However, should you get an A+ on an individual assignment, I will treat its value as 4.3.

Late Assignments
Every student is entitled to **up to four (4) no-questions-asked grace days** (including Saturdays and Sundays) during the semester, to be used at your discretion. You **do not** need to contact me to use these grace days.

However, **if you use these up, then you must notify me if you will be handing in work late**. If you talk to me about it, we will work something out. If you do not, then late assignments will be penalized one grade-step per day; i.e., a B+ assignment handed in one day late would receive a B, or if two days late, a B-, and so on.

Class Policies
I will be uploading video lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays pertaining to the readings assigned for that week (see course syllabus on D2L). The amount of readings and lecture material corresponds roughly to what I would have covered had this been an in-person class meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays, though my video lectures will not be 3 hours long!

Indeed, because this class is being offered online and asynchronously, it will be different from how things would normally go. But I think this is the best way to give you flexibility to complete the class, since I know this is an unusual and possibly difficult time. However, I do want you to keep up with the readings and posted videos week-to-week, if possible, just so everyone is roughly at the same place at the same time. The course will work best if we're all moving through it together, especially since everyone has the same due dates for assignments.

Our TA, Husna Farooqui, will be running weekly drop-in question and answer sessions on Zoom, so that will also be a good way to make sure you're up to speed. Details will be posted on D2L.

Just as I am allowing flexibility for you, please do so for Husna and me as well—we are only human, too. Do feel free to contact us by email at any time, but please allow for 24-36 hours for us to respond, and know that we will not check email on evenings and weekends. We may respond more quickly sometimes, but do not assume that we always will.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION
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

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).