



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

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

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** Tuesday/Thursday 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:** Tuesday/Thursday 14:00 – 15:00 or by appointment

**Tutorials:** Tuesday/Thursday 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, cybersecurity, digital citizenship, social media activism, and algorithmic decision-making. 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
- Technological Enhancement
- 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 you should be able to answer them easily if you have done the reading. Quizzes will be held at the start of class without prior notice.
- **Mid-term Exam** (25%)  
An in-class exam will be held on **May 28<sup>th</sup>**.
- **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. You should submit a hardcopy to me during class. The first analysis is due by **May 16<sup>th</sup>**, and the second by **May 30<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Term Paper and Group Work** (50%)
  - **Rough Draft Paper** (5%)  
You should submit a rough draft paper electronically via D2L by 11:59 pm on **June 6<sup>th</sup>**.  
The draft paper should be at least 4 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 7<sup>th</sup>** (i.e., 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 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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 11<sup>th</sup>**. 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 14<sup>th</sup>**.
- 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 four 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](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/>