



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**

**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL 314.L01
Information Technology Ethics**

**Summer Term 2023
Course Outline**

Instructor: Ron Wilburn
Office: SS 1250 and in the electronic stratosphere.
E-mail: ron.wilburn@ucalgary.ca
Class time: Tuesdays, Thursday 18:00 – 20:45
Office hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 13:00 – 14:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine a number of controversial ethical topics associated with information technology including Privacy, Intellectual Property, Freedom of Expression and Censorship, and Virtual Reality.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The general aims of the course are to have students acquire the ability to distinguish and appreciate the core ethical associated with information technology, the ability to identify philosophical reasoning, particularly to recognize, extract, and evaluate arguments, and finally, the ability to research and write philosophical exams and essays that have plausible theses and reasonable supporting arguments.

REQUIRED TEXT

Phil 314 Book of Readings (Course Pack)

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This course will be graded using a “contract system” designed to give students maximum control over their own grades.

1. 3 short essay exams (to be taken on D2L).
2. 3 paper assignments (4-6 pages each to be submitted through S2L).
3. Attendance

Note: a pass or “P” = 70% or above available point credit for an assignment.

- To achieve a D in the class, students must complete two essay exams and one paper satisfactorily (P/F).

- To achieve a C in the class, students must complete two essay exams and two papers satisfactorily (P/F) and complete one paper satisfactorily (P/F).
- To achieve a B in the class, students must complete three essay exams satisfactorily (P/F) and two papers satisfactorily (P/F)
- To achieve an A in the class, students must complete both three exams satisfactorily (P/F) and complete three papers satisfactorily (P/F).

“Plusses” and “Minuses” are determined as a function of bonus points available for especially thorough and insightful performance on exams and papers. This is a somewhat intangible grading factor.

There is no final exam. Computers are allowed in class. All coursework is to be submitted through D2L. Late or missing work is only allowed with advance permission from the professor.

Medical or other formal documentation will be required for a missed exam. Without suitable documentation, you will not be permitted to re-schedule the exam and will receive a grade of zero. Late take-home finals will lose 25% of their value each day (or portion of the day) that they are late unless accompanied by medical or other documentation. After four days, late take-homes without documentation will not be accepted, and you will receive a score of zero.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT TOPICS (DATES PROVIDED ON THE COURSE MAIN PAGE)

Exam 1	Ethical Theory
Exam 2	Privacy, Intellectual Property
Exam 3	Freedom of Speech and Expression, Information Overload, Implants Virtual Reality and Computer Simulation
Paper 1	Ethical Theory
Paper 2	Privacy, Intellectual Property
Paper 3	Freedom of Speech and Expression, Information Overload, Implants, Virtual Reality

COURSE POLICIES

I expect that the course will proceed in accordance with the course schedule. However, unforeseen contingencies, e.g., difficulty or ease with a course section, may necessitate changes in the content covered.

Attendance *per se* is not mandatory. However, note the preceding remarks concerning participation. And remember that even though the lecture material will be posted at the end of each week, I do not plan to narrate them. Thus, you may not be able to get all of the lecture content without attending class.

How to Contact Me

You can see me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me at another time. If you wish to make an appointment, please email me directly through D2L. I check my email at least once per day. I should also mention that I encourage you to offer me feedback about any aspect of the course — it is important for me to know how you think things are going, and to be flexible enough to adjust to your needs.

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 may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. 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.

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. 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/undergraduate> 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. Jeremy Fantl (jfantl@ucalgary.ca), Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that 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.

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 , arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, 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/>