



**PHIL 314 Lec 01**  
**Information Technology Ethics**  
**Spring Term 2018**  
**Course Outline**

Lectures: Tuesdays-Thursdays 17:00-19:45, SA 129

**Instructor:** Celso Neto  
**Office:** SS1215  
**Office Phone:** 403-220-6524  
**Email:** celso.alvesneto@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** TU-TH 13:00-14:00  
**Tutorial:** TU-TH 20:00-20:50, SA 129

**Course Description**

This course will examine core ethical problems associated with information technology. After introducing basic ethical theories and concepts, the course will apply these theories and concepts to the ethical problems of Privacy, Intellectual Property, Security and Cybercrime, Robotics and Enhancement, and Social Networking. Case studies will guide the examination of these problems in a dynamic classroom environment.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students should be able to engage with ethical issues in information technology critically. More specifically, they should be able to apply basic philosophical concepts and theories to identify, analyze and evaluate ethical problems in information technology. Students also should be able to recognize, reconstruct and develop philosophical arguments addressing these problems. Finally, they should be able to present and defend these arguments both in oral and written form.

**Required Texts:**

Required texts and the course schedule are posted on the digital platform D2L.

**Recommended Introductory Texts:**

Tavani, H.T., 2011. *Ethics and technology: Controversies, questions, and strategies for ethical computing*. John Wiley & Sons.

**Course Assessment**

The coursework consists of 5 quizzes, two in-class exams, a group work, and an individual paper related to the group work. Writing and grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of the student's work.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

The variety of course assessment covers all learning outcomes of the course. The quizzes allow for an assessment of whether students can recognize the main ethical problems and arguments in the assigned readings. In-class exams assess student's ability to apply philosophical concepts and theories to evaluate ethical cases and views. The group work assesses particularly the ability of students to develop, present, and defend philosophical arguments involving those cases and views. Finally, the paper assesses their ability to defend these arguments in a written form.

There will be no Registrar-schedule final exam.

A passing grade on any particular assignment is not essential to passing the whole course.

Item	% of Course grade	Due on
5 Quizzes	20 (4% each)	May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18
Exam 1	22.5	June 5
Exam 2	22.5	June 19
Group work 1	20	June 26
Paper	15	June 28

Quizzes: Quizzes are pass/fail. Each quiz contains 10 multiple choice questions. To pass a quiz it is necessary to have 7 correct answers. Each pass is 4 points. Quizzes will be available on D2L and students can re-take them as many times as they want until the due date.

Exams: Exams will take 90 minutes of class.

Group work: besides presenting the work in class, students have to evaluate themselves and the other members of the group. These evaluations will be taken into consideration when the instructor assigns the final grade of the group work.

Paper: students have to write a 3000 words paper on the same topic discussed in the group work. The instructor will provide specific guidelines for the paper. Students have to submit a hard copy to the instructor on the due date.

### **Grading Method:**

This course uses a combination of letter and number grades. Each assignment will receive a number grade. The final grade is the sum of the grades obtained in the course assignments. The final grade will receive a letter according to the following conversion table:

### **Letter Grade Conversion Table:**

A +	96-100	B+	80-84	C+	65-69	D+	50-54
A	90-95	B	75-79	C	60-64	D	45-49
A-	85-89	B-	70-74	C-	55-59	F	0-44

### **Course Policies**

#### **Late Assignments**

No extensions will be granted on assignments except in cases of medical or personal distress. In this case, the instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test or set another test.

Please contact me in case you cannot hand in assignments on time, attend to exams, etc.

[celso.alvesneto@ucalgary.ca](mailto:celso.alvesneto@ucalgary.ca)

#### **Communication**

My weekly tutorials are devoted to responding questions about the content of the course but also about assignments and any other aspect of the course. The most effective way to contact me is to come to the tutorial. Aside from that, I hold weekly office hours. You can also reach me through email at any time ([celso.alvesneto@ucalgary.ca](mailto:celso.alvesneto@ucalgary.ca)). I respond to emails within two business days after receiving the message. If the student emails a question that is fully addressed by the syllabus or announcement/news posted on D2L, I might not reply. Therefore, if you don't receive a response within two business days that means you can find the answer somewhere in the course syllabus or D2L.

## 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. Jeremy Fantl ([jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)), Allen Habib ([anhabib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anhabib@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](mailto:tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca)). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

### Writing

This course will include written assignments. 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/>

## Appendix for PHIL 314 L1 2018 - Schedule

<p><b>Week 1 – Normative Ethics</b>  <b>May 15</b> – Tavani, H.T., 2011. <i>Ethics and technology: Controversies, questions, and strategies for ethical computing</i>. John Wiley &amp; Sons. p. 35-75</p> <p><b>May 17</b> – Driver, Julia, "The History of Utilitarianism", <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> (Winter 2014 Edition)  Alexander, Larry and Moore, Michael, "Deontological Ethics", <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> (Winter 2016 Edition)</p>	<p><b>Week 5 – Technological Enhancement</b>  <b>June 12</b> – Moor, J.H., 2005. Should We Let Computers Get under Our Skin?. <i>The impact of the internet on our moral lives</i>, pp.121-137.</p> <p><b>June 14</b> – Sandel Michael, J., 2004. The case against perfection. <i>Atlantic Monthly</i>.</p> <p>Savulescu, J., 2005. New breeds of humans: the moral obligation to enhance1. <i>Reproductive BioMedicine Online</i>, 10, pp.36-39.</p>
<p><b>Week 2 – Privacy</b>  <b>May 22</b> – Doyle, T., 2013. Posner on Privacy. <i>International Journal of Applied Philosophy</i>, 27(2), pp.147-160.  Rachels, J., 2017. Why privacy is important. In <i>Privacy</i> (pp. 11-21). Routledge.</p> <p><b>May 24</b> - Tavani, H.T., 1999. Informational privacy, data mining, and the internet. <i>Ethics and Information Technology</i>, 1(2), pp.137-145.</p>	<p><b>Week 6 – Professional Ethics</b>  <b>June 19</b> – IN CLASS exam</p> <p><b>June 21</b> – Tavani, H.T., 2011. <i>Ethics and technology: Controversies, questions, and strategies for ethical computing</i>. John Wiley &amp; Sons. p. 101-131</p>
<p><b>Week 3 – CyberSecurity and CyberCrime</b></p> <p>May 29 – Himma, K.E., 2008. Ethical Issues Involving Computer Security: Hacking, Hacktivism, and Counterhacking. <i>The handbook of information and computer ethics</i>, p.191-217.</p> <p>May 31 – Philosophy talk Podcast: John Perry and Kenneth Taylor interview Edward Snowden</p> <p>Floridi, L. 2011. The Ethics of Leaks.  <a href="https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/journalism-ethics/resources/the-ethics-of-leaks/">https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/journalism-ethics/resources/the-ethics-of-leaks/</a></p>	<p><b>Week 7 – Group Work</b>  <b>June 26</b> – Group Presentations</p>
<p><b>Week 4 – Property</b>  June 5 – IN-CLASS EXAM</p> <p>Tavani, H.T., 2011. <i>Ethics and technology: Controversies, questions, and strategies for ethical computing</i>. John Wiley &amp; Sons. p. 35-75</p> <p>June 7 – Himma, K.E., 2007. Hacking as politically motivated digital civil disobedience: is hacktivism morally justified?. <i>Internet Security: Hacking, Counterhacking, and Society</i>, 73-98</p>	

