PHI 1150 Sec XXX - AI and Data Ethics Syllabus

Instructor:
Email address: Class Type: Traditional / Face-to-Face
Class Time: XXXXXXX
Class Location:
XXXXXXX

Office Hours: XXXXXXX (or by appointment)
Office Location:

!!! READ CAREFULLY !!!

By taking this course you agree to follow the policies and procedures in this syllabus. Doing so will help create a safe and constructive academic environment from which we can all benefit.

Course Description

This course is a survey of ethical issues related to artificial intelligence and data collection, such as moral rights for AI, algorithmic bias, data privacy, the use of AI in war, and more. Over the course of the semester, we will draw on philosophical concepts like the notions of rights, social justice, autonomy, and moral agency and apply them to ethical issues related to AI and data.

The course will be divided topically, and for each topic we will analyze and compare multiple philosophical perspectives on the relevant moral, social, and political issues.

Cultural Inquiry Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to…

1. Explain basic concepts in artistic or humanistic analysis. [Course LO1]
2. Analyze an artistic practice, cultural form, artifact, or philosophical idea. [Course LO6 and LO7]
3. Compare artistic practices, cultural forms, artifacts, or philosophical ideas. [Course LO8 and LO9]

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to…

1. Explain key concepts, issues, and arguments in ethics and in the current ethical debates surrounding AI and data collection. [CI LO1]
2. Apply moral reasoning to solve ethical dilemmas related to AI and data collection.
3. Explain why ethics and philosophy are important to modern technological development.
4. Describe how AI development and data collection are related to issues of equality, human rights, and social justice.
5. Identify the role and effects of individual and cultural values on ethical issues related

to AI and data collection.

6. Analyze philosophical texts and arguments on ethical issues related to AI and data collection. [CI LO2]
7. Evaluate the ideas and theories presented in philosophical texts. [CI LO2]
8. Compare philosophical perspectives on ethical issues related to AI and data collection. [CI LO3]
9. Assess competing perspectives on ethical issues related to AI and data collection. [CI LO3]

Required Materials

There are no required materials for this course. All readings will be provided in PDF form.

Evaluation

Your grade will be determined as follows:

- [10%] **Attendance** and **Participation** (2 unexcused absences permitted)
- [30%] **Reading Analyses** (10 total, 3% each; 1-2 double-spaced pages)
- [30%] **Quizzes** (3, multiple-choice and short-answer)
- [30%] **Final Paper** (~1500

words) Grading Scale

| A | 93-100 | A- | 90-92 | B+ | 87-89 | B | 83-86 | B- | 80-82 | C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 73-76 | C- | 70-72 | D+ | 67-69 | D | 63-66 | D- | 60-62 | F | below 60 |

Coursework

- **Attendance** will be taken every day at the beginning of class. Arriving late to class may count as an absence. You are allowed two (2) unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after that will reduce your grade by two percent (2%)

- **Participation:** Active class participation is vital for learning the course material effectively. In class activities will include class discussion of the material in which students share the task of explaining that week's readings and its main ideas and arguments; small group activities in which each group is assigned a passage that presents an argument and is asked to analyze the passage and share their findings with the class; and class debates in which you will be divided into "teams" and assigned opposing positions on controversial ethical issue related to AI and data use. There will occasionally be in-class activities that are graded based on completion. If you miss an in-class activity, you may be required to make it up at a later date. Your grade may be negatively impacted if you fail to actively participate in class (e.g. excessive phone use or side-talking) or miss multiple in-class activities.

- **Reading Analyses:** Each week you will be required to submit a brief reading analysis based on one of the assigned readings. (11 will be assigned over the course of the semester, of which you can miss 1 as a "freebie"; you will be graded on the remaining
10.) Your analysis will identify the thesis of the article, summarize the author's arguments, and offer commentary on the argument that reflects your critical

engagement with it. More detailed instructions will be provided with the assignment

- **Quizzes** are taken in class on the scheduled date (see Class Schedule and Corresponding Readings below). There will be three (3) quizzes, each consisting of multiple-choice that assess your knowledge of key course concepts and arguments, as well as short-answer questions asking you to explain key concepts and arguments. (For instance, a short answer question might ask something like, "In your own words, briefly explain the concept of the 'moral zombie' as applied to AI.") Quizzes will be closed-book and handwritten using a black/blue pen or pencil. Please arrive to class prepared. Blue Books are NOT required. More details will be provided closer to the first quiz date.
- **Final Paper:** You will be required to write a paper—about 1500 words in length—in which you compare and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of two competing philosophical positions on an ethical controversy discussed in the course. You will choose your specific topic in consultation with me. I will provide topic suggestions a few weeks into the course. You will submit a topic proposal six (6) weeks before the due date. (See schedule below for the due date.) More details will be provided with the topic suggestions.
- **Plagiarism Warning**: If you copy an author's words without quotation marks, or if your response is copied in full or in part from an external source, this counts as plagiarism, and you will fail the assignment. Please note that every assignment will be checked for plagiarism.

Policies
- **Conduct in class:** Please be open-minded, courageous, and *respectful* when presenting your views and engaging with the views of others. This is especially important in a philosophy course, as controversial topics are discussed regularly. Failure to follow this policy will negatively impact your grade.
- **Conduct with the instructor:** I am happy to engage with you about any questions or concerns you have about the course, including your grade, and I will approach these conversations with open-mindedness and respect. I kindly ask that you do the same.
- **Email and Canvas**: All students are expected to maintain email accounts and check the course's website on Canvas regularly. *For the fastest response please send me an email, NOT a Canvas message.*
- **Electronics**: All phones and smart devices are to be TURNED OFF and stowed away before class begins. If there is an emergency, you may quietly step into the hallway to use your device. Failure to follow this policy will negatively impact your grade. (Please speak to me privately if you require special accommodations.)
- **Food and drink** are permitted in class as long as you are not disruptive. I reserve the right to take away this privilege if it becomes a problem.
- **Office Hours:** I encourage you to take advantage of office hours to ask me questions. I am happy to make appointments (face-to-face or Zoom) if my regular office hours are inconvenient.

Class Schedule and Corresponding Readings
- Please note that this schedule is subject to change. I will announce any changes to the syllabus in class and on Canvas.
- Reading analyses are due at the *beginning* of class on the day the reading is listed. (For example, a reading analysis of Searle's "Minds Brains and Programs" would be due before class begins on Wednesday, August 28th.)

TOPIC 1: Introducing Artificial Intelligence
(Aug 26 M)	McCarthy and Hayes - "Why AI Needs Philosophy" Turing - "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"
(Aug 28 W)	Searle - "Minds Brains and Programs" Reading analysis due (CI LO2)
(Sep 02 M)	*holiday, no class*
(Sep 04 W)	Ellis - "Intentionality" (1000-Word Philosophy) Chalmers - "Could a LLM be conscious?" Reading analysis due (CI LO2)

TOPIC 2: Introducing Ethics
(Sep 09 M)	Morrow - "The Values Built into Technologies" Biddle - "Values in Artificial Intelligence Systems"
(Sep 11 W)	Powers and Ganascia - "The Ethics of the Ethics of AI" Coeckelbergh - *AI Ethics* (excerpt) Reading analysis due (CI LO2)
(Sep 16 M)	Eschenbach - "Transparency and the Black Box Problem…"
(Sep 18 W)	**QUIZ 1** (CI LO1)

TOPIC 3: Algorithmic Bias and Injustice
(Sep 23 M)	Fazelpour - "Algorithmic Bias: senses, sources, solutions"
(Sep 25 W)	Johnson - "On the Implicit Biases of Social Tech" (excerpt) Reading analysis due (CI LO2)
(Sep 30 M)	O'Nell - *Weapons of Math Destruction* (excerpt)
(Oct 02 W)	Megan Rim - "Race Gender and Visibility on Social Media" In-Class Debate on Ways of Addressing Algorithmic Bias (CI LO3)

TOPIC 4: Privacy, Big Data, and Social Media

      (Oct 07 M)   Moore - "Privacy, Security, and
                        Surveillance" Nguyen - "On 'Transparency
                        is Surveillance'"

      (Oct 09 W)   Nguyen - "Escape the Echo
                        Chamber" Reading analysis due
                        (CI LO2)

      (Oct 14 M)   *holiday, no class*

      (Oct 16 W)   Robson - "Social Media Firms, Echo Chambers, and the Good
     Life" Gelfert - "Fake News"
                        Reading analysis due (CI LO2)

TOPIC 5: Art and Love

      (Oct 21 M)   Milliere - "AI Art is Challenging the Boundaries of
                        Curation"

      (Oct 23 W)   Khosrowi et. al. - "Diffusing the Creator: Attributing
                        Credit…"
                        Reading analysis due (CI LO2)

      (Oct 28 M)   Cave & Dihal - "AI Will Always Love You: Three
                        Contradictions…" Klonschinski - "Romantic Love… A Feminist
                        Ethical Critique"

      (Oct 30 W)   **QUIZ 2** (CI LO1)

TOPIC 6: Moral Robots

      (Nov 04 M)   Danaher - "Welcoming Robots into the Moral Circle"
                        (excerpt)

      (Nov 06 W)   Neely - "Machines and the Moral Community"
                        Reading analysis due (CI LO2)

      (Nov 11 M)   Sullins - "When is a robot a moral agent"
                        Véliz - "Moral zombies: why algorithms are not moral
                        agents"

      (Nov 13 W)   Sparrow - "The Turing Triage Test"
                        In-Class Debate on Moral Agency (CI LO3)

TOPIC 7: Autonomous Systems

      (Nov 18 M)   Serife Tekin - "Ethical Issues Surrounding AI Tech in Mental
                        Health"

      (Nov 20 W)   Cummings - "What Self-Driving Cars Tell Us About AI Risks"
                        Reading analysis due (CI LO2)

      (Nov 25 M)   Sparrow - "Killer Robots"
                        Susskind - "The Future of the
                        Professions"

      (Nov 27 W)   *holiday, no class*

Reading analysis due (CI LO2)

TOPIC 8: Existential Risks
    (Dec 02 M)   Chalmers - "The Singularity: A Philosophical Analysis" (excerpt)
                  Vinge - "The Coming Technological Singularity: How to
                  Survive…"
    (Dec 04 W)   Sodha - "AI promises incredible benefits, but also terrible
                  risks…" Reading analysis due (CI LO2)
    (Dec 09 M)   Bostrom - "Ethical Issues in Advanced Artificial
                  Intelligence" Diamantis - "AI and the Law: maximize
                  paperclips…"
    (TBD)   **QUIZ 3** (CI LO2)
                  FINAL PAPER DUE (CI LO2, CI LO3)

Student Disabilities Services: If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located in the Adamany Undergraduate Library. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851. Federal law requires that a student registered with SDS is entitled to the reasonable accommodations specified in the student's accommodation letter.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic misbehavior means any activity, e.g. cheating or plagiarism, that compromises the academic integrity of the institution or subverts the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct (http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct-services.html). Students who commit or assist in committing dishonest acts are subject to downgrading (to a failing grade for the test, paper, or other course-related activity in question, or for the entire course) and/or additional sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

Course Drops & Withdrawals: In the first two weeks of the (full) term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. After the end of the 2nd week there is no tuition or fee cancellation. Students who wish to withdraw from the class can initiate a withdrawal request on Academica. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the 10th week. Students enrolled in the 10th week and beyond will receive a grade. Because withdrawing from courses may have negative academic and financial consequences, students considering it should make sure they understand all the consequences before taking this step. More information is available at: https://reg.wayne.edu/students/information#dropping.

Class recordings: Students need prior written permission from the instructor before recording any portion of this class. If permission is granted, the audio and/or video recording is to be used only for the student's

personal instructional use. Such recordings are not intended for a wider public audience, such as postings to the internet or sharing with others. Students registered with Student Disabilities Services (SDS) who wish to record class materials must present their specific accommodation to the instructor,

who will subsequently comply with the request unless there is some specific reason why s/he cannot, such as discussion of confidential or protected information. Violations of this syllabus policy may result in charges under the student code of Conduct.

Religious holidays: Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations of the University student body and staff, the Academic Calendar makes no provisions for religious holidays. However, it is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out.

Land acknowledgement: Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong (Waa-we-yaa-tih-nong), also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe (Oh-jib-way), Odawa (Oh-daa-waa), Potawatomi (Pow-tuh- waa-tuh-mee), and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. With our Native neighbors, WSU can advance educational equity and promote a better future for the earth and all people.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): It is quite common for college students to experience mental health challenges, such as stress, anxiety, and depression, that interfere with academic performance and negatively impact daily life. Help is available for any currently enrolled WSU student who is struggling with a mental health difficulty, at WSU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS; 313-577-3398). Other options, for students and non-students, include the Mental Health and Wellness Clinic at the College of Education. Services at all these clinics are free and confidential. Remember that getting help, before stress reaches a crisis point, is a smart and courageous thing to do – for yourself, and for those you care about. Also know that the WSU Police Department (313 577-2222) has personnel trained to respond sensitively to mental health emergencies at all hours.

Sexual Misconduct and Title IX: Every Warrior has the right to live, learn, and work at WSU – free from Harassment or Discrimination. Any member of the WSU Community that is impacted by sexual misconduct has the right to report to the University (i.e. Responsible Employee or Title IX Coordinator), to law enforcement (i.e. WSUPD or other jurisdiction), to both, or to neither. Every Warrior is encouraged to make the reporting decision that is right for them. Please be advised: Most faculty and staff are considered "Responsible Employees" and are required to report information they receive about incidents of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and stalking) to appropriate authorities when it involves WSU students, faculty, or staff. Free, confidential, and anonymous support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to survivors, their friends, and their family through the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). Call 1-800- 656-4673 or Chat online with a professional support specialist. Please visit TitleIX.wayne.edu to learn more about resources and support on campus and in the local community.

Basic Needs Statement: Learning is always more challenging when you are struggling to meet basic needs. Wayne State recognizes that you may face a number of challenges during your time here, and we are here to support you. Any student who faces challenges securing food, housing, or medical care is encouraged to contact relevant university offices noted on the Financial Aid website for support. You are also encouraged to notify the processor, so that they can help you access resources and support