

**San José State University
Philosophy Department
Philosophy 134: Computers, Ethics and Society
Spring 2018**

Instructor:	Kyle Yrigoyen
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Office Hours:	M W 10-11 am, or by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Online/Canvas
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area V: Culture, Civilization & Global Understanding

Course Description

The nature of privacy in a technologically interconnected world; the role of computer technologies in the exercise of the human intellect and imagination with respect to freedom of expression and the social good; rights and responsibilities of intellectual property ownership.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

This is an upper-division GE course in philosophy that explores the use of computers through the lenses of ethical theories and society. Therefore, we will cover basic concepts of philosophical argumentation and reasoning, both formal and informal, and their relationship to using computer technologies. Throughout the course we will discuss ethical theories as they relate to current affairs in computer technologies. As such, this course is an example of applied ethics, with the aim of demonstrating (by active participation and doing) the practical value of philosophical reasoning and reflection.

A word from the Academic Senate:

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

SLOs:

1. Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.
2. Identify historical contexts of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and their influence on American culture.
3. Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.

CLOs:

1. CS Program Outcome E: Demonstrate, through discussion case analyses and exam case analyses, an understanding of professional, ethical, legal, security and social issues and responsibilities of software design and use.
2. CS Program Outcome G: Demonstrate, through discussion case analyses and exam case analyses, an ability to analyze the local and global impact of computing on individuals, organizations, and society.

Required Texts/Readings

All required readings are available on Canvas as HTML, or as PDFs.

Classroom Protocol

Regular class participation is expected and encouraged. **Please check Canvas frequently:** it is your responsibility to stay informed and up to pace with the tempo of the class. Although there are no required times to meet online or in person, please devote yourself to being a regular contributor, and always come to your computer prepared with the right materials. From time to time we will discuss controversial subjects, so I expect everyone to treat one another with respect and courtesy. Given that this class falls within the relative anonymous environment of the Internet, pay very careful attention in how you phrase, word or parse comments, statements and questions. Miscommunication and misperception across internet media happens very easily because of the impersonal nature of presenting information in this mode. In the course of our discussions, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a question or concern about internet etiquette, or netiquette.

Email Policy

I encourage you to email me with any questions or concerns you have about the course or your work in it. However, I am not on call 24 hours/day: I will respond to emails Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm. If you email me at night or on the weekend, do not expect an immediate response. Furthermore, I will not respond to emails if (1) they do not contain a salutation (e.g., "Hi Kyle,..." or "Dear Prof. Yrigoyen,...") or (2) the answer to your question is contained in this syllabus or on Canvas. You are adults. I expect you to send professional correspondence that doesn't look like a text message, and to have the wherewithal to look for answers first before asking me.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Normal Grade Rules apply. Here are the grade-scales:

Class participation:	10%
Reflections:	15% (6 total: 5 required, 1 extra credit)
Paper 1:	15%
Paper 2:	15%
Midterm:	20%
Final exam:	25%

A+	98-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	94-97%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	60-66%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	F	0-59%

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Phil. 134: Computers, Ethics, and Society Spring 2018 Course Schedule

(Note: the schedule is subject to change with fair notice. More readings TBA in Canvas.)

Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 Jan. 24 - 27	Introduction & Canvas	Syllabus; Introduction - Welcome	
Week 2 Jan. 28 - Feb. 3	Intro. to Philosophy; Ethical Theory	What is Philosophy? What is Ethics?	
Week 3 Feb. 4 - 10	Ethical Theories - RIGHTS	Hobbes, <u>Leviathan</u> section Locke, <u>Two Treatises</u> section	
Week 4 Feb. 11 - 17	Ethical Theories - UTILITARIAN	Bentham, <u>Prin. Morals</u> section	Reflection 1 Due 2/11 before 11:59 pm
Week 5 Feb. 18 - 24	Ethical Theories - KANT, JUSTICE, RAWLS	Kant, <u>Meta. of Morals</u> section IEP, <u>John Rawls</u>	Reflection 2 Due 2/18 before 11:59 pm
Week 6 Feb. 25 - Mar. 3	Ethical Theories - VIRTUES, CARING	Aristotle, <u>Nicho. Ethics</u> section Singer, et al. <u>Ethics of Care</u>	Reflection 3 Due 2/25 before 11:59 pm
Week 7 Mar. 4 - 10	Social Theories - MARX, ENGELS	Marx, <u>Capital</u> section Engels, <u>Socialism, Utopian & Scientific</u> section	
Week 8 Mar. 11 - 17	Midterm Review	Review all Readings and Notes	Paper 1 Due 3/11 before 11:59 pm
Week 9 Mar. 18 - 24	Midterm Exam - March 25	Review all Readings and Notes	
Week 10 Mar. 25 - 31	Spring Break		Midterm Due 3/25 before 11:59 pm
Week 11 Apr. 1 - 7	Computer Ethics - Accountability	Cook, <u>Design and Responsibility</u> Peslak, <u>Improving Software Quality</u> Atkinson, <u>Technology Making It Worse</u>	
Week 12 Apr. 8 - 14	Computer Ethics - Accountability	Prasad, <u>Rantings of a Quality Conscious Software Engineer</u> Oloko, <u>Preventing Enterprise Software Failures</u> Andreessen, <u>Why Software is Eating the World</u>	Reflection 4 Due 4/8 before 11:59 pm
Week 13 Apr. 15 - 21	Technology and Its Discontents	Lawler, <u>Problem of Technology</u>	Reflection 5 Due 4/15 before 11:59 pm
Week 14 Apr. 22 - 28	Net Governance & Global Technology	Mueller, et al. <u>Internet & Global Governance</u> Nasr, <u>Islam, Muslims, & Modern Technology</u> Talbot, <u>China's Internet Paradox</u>	Reflection 6 Due 4/22 before 11:59 pm
Week 15 Apr. 29 - May 5	Technology and Values	Lanier, <u>You Are Not A Gadget</u> Winner, <u>The Whale and the Reactor</u>	
Week 16 May 6 - 12	Final Review	Review all Readings and Notes	Paper 2 Due 5/6 before 11:59 pm
Week 17 May 13 - 19	Final Exam - May 18	Review all Readings and Notes	Final Exam Due 5/18 before 11:59 pm