

San José State University
Philosophy Department
Philosophy 134: Computers, Ethics and Society
Section 86, Fall 2018

Instructor:	Javier Cardoza-Kon
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Office Hours:	Wed. 130pm-230pm
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.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

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

Reflections:	30% (6 total, 5 required)
Midterm:	35%
Final exam:	35%
Total:	100%

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

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

Phil. 134: Computers, Ethics, and Society, Sec. 86 Fall 2017 Course Schedule

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

Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 8/21-8/26	Introduction & Canvas	Syllabus; Introduction - Welcome	
Week 2 8/27-9/2	Intro. to Philosophy; Ethical Theory	What is Philosophy? What is Ethics?	Reflection 1 Due 9/2 before 11:59 pm
Week 3 9/3-9/9	Ethical Theories – RIGHTS	Hobbes, <u>Leviathan</u> section Locke, <u>Two Treatises</u> section	
Week 4 9/10-9/16	Ethical Theories - UTILITARIAN	Bentham, <u>Prin. Morals</u> section	Reflection 2 Due 9/16 before 11:59pm
Week 5 9/17-9/23	Ethical Theories - KANT, JUSTICE, RAWLS	Kant, <u>Meta. of Morals</u> section IEP, <u>John Rawls</u>	
Week 6 9/24-9/30	Ethical Theories - VIRTUES, CARING	Aristotle, <u>Nicho. Ethics</u> section Singer, et al. <u>Ethics of Care</u>	Reflection 3 Due 9/30 before 11:59pm
Week 7 10/1-10/7	Social Theories - MARX, ENGELS	Marx, <u>Capital</u> section Engels, <u>Socialism, Utopian & Scientific</u> section	
Week 8 10/8-10/14	Midterm Exam – 10/14	Review all Readings and Notes	Midterm Due 10/14 before 11:59pm
Week 9 10/15-10/21	Computer Ethics - Accountability	Cook, <u>Design and Responsibility</u> Peslak, <u>Improving Software Quality</u> Atkinson, <u>Technology Making It Worse</u>	
Week 10 10/22- 10/28	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 10/28 before 11:59pm
Week 11 10/29-11/4	Technology and Its Discontents	Lawler, <u>Problem of Technology</u> Talbot, <u>China's Internet Paradox</u>	
Week 12 11/5-11/11	Net Governance & Global Technology	Mueller, et al. <u>Internet & Global Governance</u> Nasr, <u>Islam, Muslims, & Modern Technology</u>	Reflection 5 Due 11/11 before 11:59pm
Week 13 11/12-11/18	Technology and Values	Lanier, <u>You Are Not A Gadget Winner, The Whale and the Reactor</u>	

Week 14 11/19- 11/25	Thanksgiving Break	Review all Readings and Notes	
Week 15 11/26-12/2		<u>Reading - Cook, "Design and Responsibility"</u>	Reflection 6 Due 12/2 before 11:59pm
Week 16 12/3-12/10	Final Exam – Review	Review all Readings and Notes	Final Exam Due 12/12 Before 11:59pm

Important Dates: SPRING

2018 Found at:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2172/>

SPRING 2018

Monday	January 1	New Year's Day - Campus Closed (N)
Monday	January 15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Campus Closed (K)
Monday	January 22	Spring Semester Begins
Monday-Tuesday	January 22-23	Pre-Instruction Activities: Faculty Orientation, Advisement, Faculty Meetings and Conferences (P)
Wednesday	January 24	First Day of Instruction – Classes Begin
Monday	February 5	Last Day to Drop Courses Without an Entry on Student's Permanent Record (D)
Monday	February 12	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late (A)
Tuesday	February 20	Enrollment Census Date (CD)
Monday - Friday	March 26-30	Spring Recess (*SPRING RECESS*)
Friday	March 30	Cesar Chavez Day (Observed) - Campus Closed (CC)
Monday	May 14	Last Day of Instruction – Last Day of Classes
Tuesday	May 15	Study/Conference Day (no classes or exams) (SC)
Wednesday - Friday	May 16-18,	Final Examinations (exams)
Monday - Tuesday	May 21-22	Final Examinations (exams)
Wednesday	May 23	Final Examinations Make-Up Day (MU)
Thursday	May 24	Grade Evaluation Day (E)
Friday	May 25	Grades Due From Faculty (G)
Friday	May 25	End of Academic Year - End of Spring Semester
Saturday.....	May 26	Commencement (C)
Monday	May 28	Memorial Day - Campus Closed (M)