Values and Technology
PHIL 3242 - (14048)

Course Description
This course will explore one of the central challenges of our current societies exponential technological advancement: moral upkeep. Technology comes with two central types of moral challenges: general questions related to how we should develop and use any technology and specific moral questions that emerge alongside specific technologies. As we develop strategies for earnest and successful moral engagement with technology, we will also develop a better understanding of the multi-tiered project of applied ethical analysis.

Course Requirements
- Attendance, Participation, Quizzes & Homework (APQH) = 10%
- Response Papers = 25%
- Midterm = 30%
- Final Essay = 35%

There are no REQUIRED texts for this course. In the next column is a list of texts that we will use in addition to a number of articles. These and all other materials will be made available on Moodle.

Course Texts

Course Objectives
Knowledge Construction (SLO#2): Use experience and understanding of ethical theory to develop an individualized approach to ethical problem-solving especially in unique or unprecedented situations.

Critical Thinking (SLO#3): Employ creative, critical, reflective and effective reasoning in analyzing ethical theory and ethical problems stemming from technology.

Self-Realization (SLO#4): Explore and articulate values as against theoretical perspectives on ethics; develop ethical reasoning to facilitate informed ethical choices.

Ethical Social Action (SLO#4): Employ ethical reasoning in the analysis of the unique challenges presented by technology in order to challenge unfair and unjust behavior and translate values into principles for action.

Effective Communication (SLO#6): Articulate and explain moral theories and their appropriate application to particular situations in discussion and in writing.

Course Policies
Accommodation: Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course should register with the Office of Disability Services, (218) 726-6130. This office can help you get the accommodations you need should you have a long-term difficulties (learning disabilities, cognitive obstacles, but also sensory deficits) as well as short-term ones (injuries that interfere with your ability to take notes or attend class).

Inclement Weather Policy: Information on campus closure can be found on the UMD web page as well as local radio and television stations. If inclement weather prevents you from being able to come to class and campus is not closed, please call me at (218) 726-7714 or send an email to jschroer@d.umn.edu.
**Absence:** Valid excuses for absence include (but are not limited to) illness, family and personal emergency, and university sponsored activities; also valid excuses should be documented (doctor’s note, court orders, event program, etc.). Whenever possible students should provide advanced notice of absence.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken. Six or more unexcused absences may adversely affect a student's grade. Students who miss a third of the scheduled meetings will fail.

**Late Assignments:** Any major assignment submitted late without an excuse will be penalized one-third of a letter grade for each day that it is overdue. **Minor assignments will not be accepted late.**

**Makeup Assignments:** In the event that a student misses an exam or assignment due to an excused absence a makeup exam or assignment will be made available. **All assignments must be made up within week of the original deadline.**

**Appropriate Student Use of Class Notes and Course Materials:** Taking notes is a means of recording information but more importantly of personally absorbing and integrating the educational experience. Broadly disseminating class materials — including syllabi, assignments, the contents of lectures and by extension your notes — beyond the classroom community or accepting compensation for distributing classroom materials undermines instructor interests in their intellectual work product For additional information, please see: [http://www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/ClassNotesAppropriateUseof.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/ClassNotesAppropriateUseof.html).

- A special precaution is taken with all exams. Your graded exams will be disseminated after grading, but will be collected before your grades are recorded. I will not record grades for exams not in my possession.

**Plagiarism:** Any instance of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will be punished by failing the assignment and possibly the class. See the Student Handbook “Academic Integrity”.

- If you use a sentence—even a phrase, even if you paraphrase an idea — from some document without citing it, you have committed plagiarism. Improper citations (incomplete or inaccurate) are acts of academic dishonesty. (If you are using the exact words, you need a proper citation and the remark must be in quotation marks.” There are many citation styles, but I prefer Chicago Manual of Style. Here is a resource for proper citations: [http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/cmosfaq/tools.html](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/cmosfaq/tools.html).

**Classroom Behavior:** Ringing cellphones, aggressive behavior toward faculty and students, or other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances. (See Student Handbook "Code of Conduct.")

- Furthermore, this is an ENGAGED classroom. You are expected to show up prepared to interact with the professor an each other. To facilitate and encourage engagement, this course will use an audience response system; you will need to have a cellphone with texting capabilities*, a smartphone, or a laptop with you in order to participate in regular graded feedback.

**Participation:** To facilitate and accurately measure classroom participation I use a classroom response system called [Poll Everywhere](http://www.poll Everywhere). Use the instructions posted here to register so that your responses can be properly recorded and attributed to you.

- In order to use [Poll Everywhere](http://www.poll Everywhere) you must have access to a cellphone that texts or some sort of web-enabled device — smartphone, tablet device, laptop — during every class.

- You will be responsible for making sure that your responses are being recorded and attributed. You can check the record of your responses (the one that at I will use for your grade) here. I will keep a count of possible response points here. Any discrepancies or technical difficulties should be reported immediately.

Any other information about this class including the schedule can be found on the website for the class: [http://www.d.umn.edu/~jschroer/3242](http://www.d.umn.edu/~jschroer/3242).