

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY/DIGITAL HUMANITIES
Undergraduate Course Outline 2019-20

Phil 2078F/DH 2126F: Ethics for a Digital World

Fall 2019

Day and Time: Thursdays 1:30 ±2:30 p.m.
Classroom: WSC 55

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Robb
Office: Stevenson Hall, 4126
Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30 a.m. ±
1:30 p.m.
e-mail: rrobb@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

We spend a considerable portion of our lives in the digital world. What moral considerations ought to guide our conduct as digital citizens given the possibility that online behaviour is morally distinct from real world behaviour? This class will engage material that address the philosophical issues raised by these two questions. Specifically: : K D W ¶ V W K H U H O D W L R Q V
our virtual identities and our physical identities. How is online activity changing our interpersonal relationships? What are our rights and responsibilities toward others in the digital world? How do we trade between the potentially conflicting values of anonymity and accountability? How do we balance copyright claims against demands for open access? Is piracy DOZD \ V ZURQJ" 'RHV D KDFNHUe... How should we respond to sexism, racism, homophobia and other forms of hate and exclusion in online communities?

TEXTS

All the readings for this course will be made available through OWL

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this course is to help students improve their critical thinking skills. Specifically, students should expect to improve their abilities to understand the arguments made in the readings and respond with arguments of their own in their online discussion posts, their online participation, and their term papers

The secondary goal of the course is to familiarize students with recent attempts by scholars to identify and address the ethical issues that emerge increasingly in digital lives. This goal will be satisfied by testing student comprehension of the materials with online quizzes, and the final exam.

REQUIREMENTS

Online Quizzes 15% (11 quizzes, worth 16% each)
Online Discussion Post 20% (two 400 ±600 word posts, worth 10% each)
Online Discussion Participation: 10% (8 responses, worth 12% each)
One 1200 ±1300 word term paper: 25%
Final Exam: 30%

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Extensions

If you fail to meet the submission dates for the two essays, extensions may be granted only as a result of a petition to the Academic Council.

TOPIC SCHEDULE

Unit 1 (Weeks 1 to 3, September 5th - 22nd):

Introduction - What is Philosophy? What is Ethics?

Unit 2 (Weeks 4 and 5, September 22nd - October 6th) / F2 12 Tf 1 0 0 1 186.26 623.74 Tm 0 G [(S)-3(e)4(p

resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for ~~self~~ supporting of medical or extenuating circumstances: