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« The goal of this course is to familiarize students with some of the philosophical challenges posed by advances in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), metaphysics, ethics, and social implications of various forms and applications of AI. Students will, including positions on, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Technology, Philosophy of Mind, and Ethics.

Your final grade is determined by which bundle of assignments you complete (these are specified in **Course Requirements**). All the standards specified in the bundle must be met to get the corresponding grade. Higher grades require that you do more work and more demanding work.

The value of this approach is that it (1) promotes higher quality work, (2) helps ensure that course learning objectives are met, (3) more closely reflects the nature of real-world evaluation, and (4) affords

RESUBMISSION POLICY

If you submit an assignment that is evaluated as not satisfactory, you may resubmit the assignment in exchange for 1 or more tokens (see Evaluation Scheme for details). To do this, you must email me to (1) notify me that you plan to use your tokens and (2) propose a new deadline for when your new version is due. You will then have an opportunity to revise your submission and have it reevaluated. If it is Satisfactory, it will count as complete. If it is 'Superior', it will count as complete, and you will also

avoided by carefully reading the instructions for the assignment. Be sure to use the Specification Checklist (posted on OWL) for each assignment before submitting it.

LATE POLICY

Deadlines are somewhat arbitrary. Nevertheless, they are helpful for promoting good time management and active engagement with the course. For this reason, I have designed my late policy to reflect these facts. In general, I will grant extensions without penalty as long as they are requested 3 or more days prior to the due date. Extension requested less than 3 days prior to the deadline will be granted in exchange for 1 token. Extension requested after the deadline will be granted in exchange for 2 tokens.

When you request an extension, you must propose a new due date for the assignment based on when this will be

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of the policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive an assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000-or 4000

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Course Introduction

Readings

- *AI Ethics*, Ch 1;
- Piper, "[The Case for Taking AI Seriously as a Threat to Humanity](#)," *Vox*

Note: No tutorials on Sept 8/9

Week 2: Some Questions in Philosophy of AI; Superintelligence

Readings

- *AI Ethics*, Ch 2–3;
- Bostrom "[When machines outsmart humans](#),"

Sept 15/16 – Tutorial 1

Week 3: A Quick History of AI: From 'Thinking Machines' to 'Learning Machines'

Readings

- *AI Ethics*, Ch 5-6;
- Heaven, "[Why GPT-3 is the best and worst of AI right now](#)," *MIT Technology Review*
- Samuel "[AI's Islamophobia Problem](#)," *Vox*
 - (And listen to: *Recode Daily*, "AI's Anti-Muslim bias problem" *Recode*. Oct 4, 2021);
- Harris, "

Sept 29/30 – Tutorial 3 – *Bi-Weekly Reflection #1* due

Week 5: Social Media and Ethics

Readings

- Lynch, “The Outrage Factory (on OWL);
- Bloom and Jordan, “[Are we all harmless torturers now?](#)” *New York Times*
- Tufekci, “[It’s the Democracy Poisoning Age of a Free Speech.](#)” *Wired*

Oct 6/7 – Tutorial 4 – *Philosophy Meme Post #1* due

Week 6: Data, Privacy, and Power

Readings

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READING WEEK Your Introductory Writing Assignment

- Eric Schwitzgebel and John Basl, '[AIs should have the same ethical protections as animals](#),' *Aeon*
- *Hi-Phi Nation* podcast, "[Zombies](#)."

Suggested

- Ch 10-11 of *AI Ethics*
- Terry Bisson, "[They're Made out of Meat](#)," short story,
- Schwitzgebel & Garza "A Defense of the Rights of artificial Intelligence" (on OWL)
- Joanna Bryson, "Robots Should be Slaves" (on OWL)

Nov 24/25 – Tutorial 10 – **Short Paper #2** due

Week 12: AI and the Climate

Readings

- *AI Ethics*, Ch 12;