WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2022-23
Digital Humanities 2126F/Phil 2078F (650):
Ethics for a Digital World

Antirequisites: Phil 2998 (F/W 2019-20), Phil 2268

DESCRIPTION

We spend a considerable portion of our lives in the digital world. What moral considerations ought to guide our conduct as cyber-citizens, given the possibility that

METHOD OF EVALUATION
Quizzes: 15% (11 multiple choice quizzes, worth 1.36% each)
Discussion Posts: 30% (two 400   600 word posts, worth 15% each)
Discussion Participation: 10% (8 responses, worth 1.25% each)
One 1100   1300 word term-paper: 25%
Final Exam: 20% (scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during the December 2022 Final Exam period)

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 discussion posts or the term paper, extensions may be granted only as a result of a petition to the Academic Counselor of the stu   lty. **Instructors have no authority to waive this requirement, and any unofficial arrangements they make with students will not be respected by the administration.**

2. Late Assignments and penalties

   Quizzes**:** Quizzes not completed prior to the end of the relevant Unit **cannot** be made up.

   Unit Discussion Posts: Late discussion posts will lose 1 (out of 15) mark per day for each day they are late; after 9 days (weekends included), a grade of 0 will automatically be recorded.

   Discussion Responses/Participation: A failure to respond with the required number of replies (four in Unit 2 and four in Unit 4) to your classmates discussion posts before the deadline specified on the schedule below **cannot** be made up.

   Term Papers: The term papers are due on the last day of classes for the term. In accord with UWO Senate guidelines, **no term papers will be accepted after the last day of classes, i.e., Thursday, December 8th, 2022**. **ANY PAPER NOT SUBMITTED BY THIS TIME WILL** (regrettably) **RECEIVE A GRADE OF 0**.

READING AND ASSIGNMENTS S

Week 4: Can we Make Friends Online?

Readings: Robert Sharp   The Obstacles Against Reaching the Highest Level of Aristotelean
              Friendship Online
              Sofia Kaliarnta
              Friendships: A Critical Counterview
Assignments: a. Quiz #4 (The two quizzes for Unit 2 must be completed by Thursday October
              6th, no later than 11:55 p.m. EDT)
              b. **First** 400   600 word Unit Discussion Post due no later than **11:55 p.m. EDT
              Thursday October 6th**.

Unit 3 (Weeks 5 and 6, October 6th – 19th): The Effect of Digital Life on Truth and Privacy

Week 5: The Internet, Truth, and Anonymity

Readings: Karen Frost-Arnold   Trustworthiness and Truth: The Epistemic Pitfalls of
              Internet Accountability
              R. George Wright   Self-Censorship and the Constriction of Thought and
              Discussion under Modern Communications Technologies
              Nicholas Munn   The New Political Blogosphere
Assignment: Quiz #5

Week 6: Privacy

Readings: Norman Bowie   Privacy and the Internet
              Dorota Mokrosinska   Privacy and the Integrity of Liberal Politics: The Case of
              Governmental Internet Searches
Assignments: a. Quiz #6 (The two quizzes for Unit 3 must be completed by Thursday October
              20th no later than 11:55 p.m. EDT).
              b. Four Responses to **FOUR SEPARATE CLASSMATES'** Unit 2 discussion
              posts must be completed no later than 11:55 p.m. EDT on Thursday October 20th.

Unit 4 (Weeks 7, 8, and 9 October 20th – November 16th): The Ethics of Open Access, Piracy, and Hacking

Week 7: Open Access

Readings: Michael Parker   The Ethics of Open Access Publishing
              John Willinsky and J.P. Alperin   The Academic Ethics of Open Access to
              Research and Scholarship
              Natasha Susan Mauthner and Odette Parry   Open Access Digital Data Sharing:
              Principles, Policies and Practices
Assignment: Quiz #7

Week 8: Piracy and Hacking

Readings: Paul Graham   Defining Property
                      Roberts   The Ethics of Piracy
                      Luc Small   Theft in a Wireless World
Assignments: a. Quiz #8

Week 9: Hacking

Readings: Loyd Blankenship
                      Ronald Pike   ng Ethical Hacking
                      Philip Serracino-Inglott   Is it ok to be an Anonymous?
Assignments: a. Quiz #9 (The three quizzes for Unit 4 must be completed by Thursday
                    November 17th, no later than 11:55 p.m. EST)
                    b. **Second** 400   600 word Unit Discussion Post is due by **11:55 p.m. EST**
                    Thursday November 17th

**Unit 5 (Weeks 10, 11 and 12 November 17th – December 8th): Big Data, Gender, and
Cyberbullying**

Week 10: Big Data; the Potential and the Problems

Reading: Michael Kelley   Scientists Used Facebook for the Largest Ever Study of
                      Language and Personality
                      Hannes Grassegger and Mikael Krogerus   The Data that Turned the World
                      Upside Down
                      Dinah Payne and C.C. Trumbach   Data Mining: Proprietary Rights, People and
                      Proposals
Assignment: Quiz #10

Week 11: Gender and the Internet

Reading: Helen Lewis   Dear The Intern
                      Alison Adam and Jacqueline Ofori-Amanfo   Does Gender Matter in Computer
                      Ethics?
                      Alison Adam   Cyberstalking and Internet Pornography: Gender and the Gaze
Assignment: Quiz #11 (The three quizzes for Unit 5 must be completed by Thursday December
                    8th no later than 11:55 p.m. EST)

Week 12: The Problem of Cyberbullying

Reading

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Depart

SUPPORT SERVICES