

Syllabus for PHI 3681: Ethics, Data, and Technology
Dr. Molly Gardner
University of Florida, Fall 2022

LECTURES:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:50 p.m. – 1:40 p.m., Turlington L011 (Molly Gardner)

DISCUSSIONS:

You should be enrolled in only one of these discussion sections. Please attend only the section you are enrolled in.

23777: Fridays, 10:40 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Matherly 0112 (Christopher Becker)

23778: Fridays, 12:50 p.m. – 1:40 p.m., Matherly 0016 (Christopher Becker)

23779: Fridays, 1:55 p.m. – 2:45 p.m., Matherly 0013 (Christopher Becker)

24018: Fridays, 9:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m., Leigh 0142 (Rusong Huang)

24019: Fridays, 11:45 a.m. – 12:35 p.m., Keene-Flint 0105 (Rusong Huang)

24020: Fridays, 12:50 p.m. – 1:40 p.m., Little 0125 (Rusong Huang)

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. Gardner:

Email: mollygardner@ufl.edu

Office: Griffin-Floyd 313

Office phone: 352-294-0426

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2 – 4 in person and Thursdays 10 – 11 by Zoom

Office Hours Sign-Up Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H965e1fDW6p_liZOHOMZ7ESaqBdPG1K_lpHAWO03KAY/edit

Rusong Huang:

Email: rusonghuang@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 1 – 4 p.m. by Zoom

Office Hours Sign-Up Sheet:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BvTEMZOekcEXuYdWJC5suvznWkhm-uNA0Hbj8ELJT-M/edit>

Christopher Becker:

Email: c.becker@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Griffin-Floyd 303 (the Philosophy Department Library)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course we will use philosophical methodology to understand various ethical issues at the intersection of technology studies and data science. Some of those issues include the reliance on artificial intelligence to make policing and sentencing decisions in the criminal justice system; the allegations that Facebook and social media companies have caused psychological or political harm; the use of autonomous weapons in war; and government surveillance.

COURSE MATERIALS:

- All readings and other materials will be uploaded to our Canvas website.

COURSE GOALS:

“Knowledge That”:

- Better understand some of the central ethical issues at the intersection of technology studies and data science.

“Knowledge How”:

- Improve your ability to read for arguments, reconstruct the arguments you have read, and evaluate the arguments you have reconstructed
- Improve your ability to reason about ethical issues
- Improve your ability to express yourself in speech and writing with clarity, depth, and precision

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

4 Quizzes: 10 points each, lowest grade dropped (30 points total) <i>Each quiz will consist of 4 multiple-choice questions and 3 short-answer questions.</i>	Attendance and Participation: 10 points <i>(See chart on next page.)</i>
2 Papers: 60 points each (120 points total) <i>Each paper should be between 1000 and 1200 words.</i>	Final Exam: 40 points <i>The take-home final exam will consist of 4 multiple-choice questions, 3 short-answer questions, and 3 short essay questions.</i>

Total: 200 points

- **Lowest Quiz Grade Dropped:** Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
- **Extra Credit:** You will have the opportunity to get up to 3 extra credit points over the course of the semester. Information about extra credit opportunities will be posted periodically on Canvas.

- **Attendance and Participation:** See chart on next page

DETERMINING YOUR SEMESTER GRADE:

A	186 to 200 points
A-	180 to 185 points
B+	172 to 179 points
B	164 to 171 points
B-	160 to 163 points
C+	152 to 159 points
C	144 to 151 points
C-	140 to 143 points
D+	132 to 139 points
D	124 to 131 points
D-	120 to 123 points
E	0 to 119 points

Please note that your course grade is determined by points, not percentages, and that all points have equal weight, regardless of the assignment. Canvas is sometimes misleading when it tells you what “percentage grade” it thinks you have; if you are in doubt about what your true course grade is going to be, ***ignore the percentage that Canvas gives you*** and simply calculate the number of points you have earned and the number of points you can still earn, keeping in mind that we will drop your lowest quiz grade.

UNIVERSITY GRADING POLICIES:

For information on how your grade for this course will be averaged with your grades in other courses at the University of Florida, see the following:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> . Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION GRADE:

This semester you will be expected to attend 29 Monday/Wednesday lectures and 12 Friday discussions. This means there are 41 classes total. Five absences (from either lecture, discussion, or both) will be ***automatically excused***, but any additional absences will lower your attendance and participation grade according to the following chart: (Remember that attendance and participation are worth 10 points out of 200 for the semester.)

	Poor participation	Excellent participation
0 absences	8	10
1 absence	8	10
2 absences	8	10

3 absences	8	10
4 absences	8	10
5 absences	8	10
6 absences	7	9
7 absences	6	7
8 absences	5	6
9 absences	4	5
10 or more absences	0 to 3	4

There is almost never a need to email either me or your teaching assistant to have your absences excused. We do not need to know why you were gone. As the chart above illustrates, 5 absences are *automatically* excused no matter what reason you had to be absent, and any additional absences will lower your attendance and participation grade *regardless of your reason for being absent*.

There is one exception to this policy: in a case where at least *six* of your absences are justified by what the university deems to be “acceptable reasons,” please email me, and I will consider evaluating you on participation only. Please see the University of Florida’s policy for a list of acceptable reasons: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. **This exception does not apply when fewer than six of your absences are for good reasons.** For example, if you had good reasons for being absent 5 times but were absent a total of 7 times, then the exception does not apply to you, and your maximum attendance/participation grade is 7 out of 10, as the chart above indicates.

LATE PAPERS OR MISSED QUIZZES:

- If you miss a quiz deadline, you will receive a 0 for that quiz; there will be no make-up quizzes this semester. (But remember that your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.)
- If you miss the deadline or anticipate that you *will* miss the deadline for a paper, please send me an email at mollygardner@ufl.edu *as soon as possible*, and I will consider whether to grant you an extension. I reserve the right to deduct between 0 and 10 points from a paper grade for lateness.

WORKING WITH OTHERS:

Although you are free to study for quizzes and the exam with other students, your work on the quizzes and exams must be your own. You may also discuss your paper ideas with me, your teaching assistant, or other students. For help brainstorming, formatting, and writing your papers, you are welcome to take drafts of your papers us or to the writing studio.

However, you must ultimately write your papers on your own, and you must cite your sources. Any citation style—MLA, Chicago, APA, or some variation—is acceptable. For information about how to avoid plagiarism, see the handouts I have uploaded to the non-required readings folder on Canvas.

Please note that you can bring me and your TA as many drafts of your papers as you like.

However, we do not give *written* feedback on drafts—instead, we will provide you with *oral feedback* only, which means that you must come to a Zoom or in-person meeting with us to get feedback.

HONOR CODE:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions; for more information see this page: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>. You are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with me or your TA.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

You will be asked twice to evaluate the course: once midway through the semester (this is the “midterm” evaluation) and once at the end of the semester (this is the “end-of-semester” evaluation). The midterm evaluation is designed to help me and your teaching assistants address any problems with the course while there is still time for you to benefit from your suggestions; thus, the evaluations will not be shared publicly. The evaluation at the end of the semester will be used for additional purposes and the data will be shared on the University website.

For the official evaluation, you are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback is here: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. You will be notified when the official evaluation period opens, and you can complete evaluations through the email you receive from GatorEvals, in your Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluer.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to you here: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

This schedule is tentative. Please check Canvas for updates.

Date	What we will do in class	Reading (to be done before class)
8/24/22	Introduction to Ethics, Data, and Technology	None
8/29/22	Privacy	James Rachels, "Why Privacy Is Important" (11 pages)
8/31/22	Privacy	David Boonin, <i>AI, Ethics, and the State</i> 3.1 and 3.2 (9 pages)
9/5/22	Labor Day: No Class	
9/7/22	Quiz 1 due online at 12:50 p.m. Privacy	David Boonin, <i>AI, Ethics, and the State</i> , excerpts from 3.3 (12 pages)
9/12/22	Privacy	David Boonin, <i>AI, Ethics, and the State</i> , 3.4 (14 pages)
9/14/22	Privacy	Alderman and Kennedy, <i>The Right to Privacy</i> excerpt (7 pages) Solove, Rotenberg, and Schwartz, <i>Privacy, Information, and Technology</i> excerpt (8 pages)
9/19/22	Policing	William J. Stuntz, "The Distribution of Fourth Amendment Privacy" (25 pages)
9/21/22	Policing	None
9/26/22	Quiz 2 due online at 12:50 p.m. Policing	Cathy O'Neil, <i>Weapons of Math Destruction</i> , Chapter 5 (21 pages)
9/28/22	Policing	David Harris, <i>Profiles in Injustice</i> Chapter 4 (18 pages)
10/3/22	Policing	Douglas Husak, "Policing and Racial Discrimination: Throwing Out the Baby with the Bathwater" (21 pages)
10/5/22	Policing	None
	Paper 1 due Sunday, October 9 at 11:59 p.m.	
10/10/22	Justice	David Boonin, <i>AI, Ethics, and the State</i> , 4.1 (12 pages)
10/12/22	Justice	Clinton Castro, "What's Wrong With Machine Bias?" (22 pages)
10/17/22	Business	Milton Friedman, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Profits"
10/19/22	Business	Christopher Stone, "Why Shouldn't Corporations Be Socially Responsible?"

10/24/22	Quiz 3 due online at 12:50 p.m. Business	Cathy O'Neil, <i>Weapons of Math Destruction</i> , Chapter 4 (16 pages)
10/26/22	Business	Cathy O'Neil, <i>Weapons of Math Destruction</i> , Chapter 10 (19 pages)
10/31/22	Business	Christopher Ferguson, "Does the Internet Make the World Worse? Depression, Aggression, and Polarization in the Social Media Age" (19 pages)
11/2/22	Business	None
11/7/22	War	David Boonin, <i>AI, Ethics, and the State</i> , 5.1 (12 pages)
11/9/22	War	David Boonin, <i>AI, Ethics, and the State</i> , 5.2 (13 pages)
11/14/22	Quiz 4 due online at 12:50 p.m. War	David Boonin, <i>AI, Ethics, and the State</i> , 5.3 excerpt 1 (15 pages)
11/16/22	War	David Boonin, <i>AI, Ethics, and the State</i> , 5.3 excerpt 2 (15 pages)
11/21/22	War	David Boonin, <i>AI, Ethics, and the State</i> , 5.3 excerpt 3 (13 pages)
11/23/22	Thanksgiving Break: No Class	
11/28/22	To be determined by class interest	To be determined by class interest
11/30/22	To be determined by class interest	To be determined by class interest
	Paper 2 due Sunday, December 4 at 11:59 p.m.	
12/5/22	To be determined by class interest	To be determined by class interest
12/7/22	Review for Final Exam and Lessons from the Course	None

The final exam will be Thursday, December 15, 2022 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.