

Syllabus for PHI 3681: Ethics, Data, and Technology
Dr. Molly Gardner
University of Florida, Fall 2024

LECTURES:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:55 – 2:45 p.m., Weil 270 (Molly Gardner)

DISCUSSIONS:

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

21597: Fridays, 10:40 – 11:30 a.m., Matherly 4 (Marcus Davis)
21598: Fridays, 12:50 – 1:40 p.m., Matherly 9 (Marcus Davis)
21599: Fridays, 1:55 – 2:45 p.m., Matherly 16 (Marcus Davis)
21792: Fridays, 10:40 – 11:30 a.m., Matherly 3 (Jake Haun)
21793: Fridays, 12:50 – 1:40 p.m., Matherly 7 (Jake Haun)
21794: Fridays, 1:55 – 2:45 p.m., Matherly 14 (Jake Haun)

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. Gardner:

Email: mollygardner@ufl.edu
Office: Griffin-Floyd 313
Office phone: 352-294-0426
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3 – 5 p.m.
Office Hours Sign-Up Sheet: <http://bit.ly/2vYpCmI>

Macus Davis:

Email: lucydavis@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in FLO 303

Jake Haun:

Email: jake.haun@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. in FLO 303

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; mass surveillance and privacy; technological unemployment; and the use of autonomous weapons in war.

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:

<p>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></p>	<p>Attendance and Participation: 10 points <i>(See chart on next page.)</i></p>
<p>2 Papers: 65 points each (130 points total) <i>Each paper should be between 1000 and 1200 words.</i></p>	<p>Final Exam: 30 points <i>The take-home final exam will consist of 4 multiple-choice questions, 3 short-answer questions, and 2 short essay questions.</i></p>

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 26 Monday/Wednesday lectures and 13 Friday discussions. This means there are 39 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. Absences due to illness or to adding this class after the first day are treated as described above, exactly like any other absences.

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.

You are not permitted to use ChatGPT or any other form of artificial intelligence for assistance completing any of the work for this class.

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.bluera.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)
8/26/24	Introduction to Ethics, Data, and Technology; Moral Reasoning, Part 1	None
8/28/24	Moral Reasoning, Part 2	David Boonin and Graham Oddie , <i>What's Wrong? Applied Ethicists and Their Critics</i> (excerpt)
9/2/24	Labor Day: No Class	
9/4/24	Mass Public Surveillance	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 3, excerpt 1
9/9/24	Quiz 1 due at 1:55 p.m. Mass Public Surveillance	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 3, excerpt 2 Non-Required Reading: Judith Thomson, "The Right to Privacy"
9/11/24	Mass Public Surveillance	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 3, excerpt 3 Non-Required Reading: Andrei Marmor, "What is the Right to Privacy?"
9/16/24	What Is the Right to Privacy?	Benedict Rumbold and James Wilson , "Privacy Rights and Public Information"
9/18/24	Privacy and the Law	William J. Stuntz , "The Distribution of Fourth Amendment Privacy" Non-Required Readings: Alderman and Kennedy , <i>The Right to Privacy</i> excerpt Solove, Rotenberg, and Schwartz , <i>Privacy, Information, and Technology</i> excerpt
9/23/24	Quiz 2 due at 1:55 p.m. Fairness and Policing	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 2, excerpt 1 Non-Required Reading: Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi, "Targeted"
9/25/24	Fairness and Policing	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 2, excerpt 2 Non-Required Reading: David Harris, <i>Profiles in Injustice</i> (excerpt)
	Paper 1 due Friday, September 27 at 11:59 p.m.	
9/30/24	Fairness and Policing	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 2, excerpt 3 Non-Required Reading: Douglas Husak, "Policing and Racial Discrimination: Throwing Out the Baby with the Bathwater"

10/2/24	Fairness and Policing	Cathy O’Neil , <i>Weapons of Math Destruction</i> , Chapter 5
10/7/24	Opacity and Justice	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 4, excerpt 1 Non-Required Reading: Jenna Burrell , “How the Machine ‘Thinks’: Understanding Opacity in Machine Learning Algorithms”
10/9/24	Opacity and Justice	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 4, excerpt 2
10/14/24	Opacity and Justice	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 4, excerpt 3
10/16/24	Opacity and Justice	Clinton Castro , “What’s Wrong with Machine Bias?”
10/21/24	Quiz 3 due at 1:55 p.m. AI and Risk	Karina Vold and Daniel R. Harris , “How Does Artificial Intelligence Pose an Existential Risk?”
10/23/24	AI and Risk	William MacAskill , <i>What We Owe the Future</i> excerpt
10/28/24	Responsibility and War	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 5, excerpt 1
10/30/24	Responsibility and War	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 5, excerpt 2
11/4/24	Responsibility and War	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 5, excerpt 3
11/6/24	Responsibility and War	David Boonin , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 5, excerpt 4
11/11/24	Veterans Day: No Class	
11/13/24	Quiz 4 due at 1:55 p.m. To be determined by class interest	To be determined by class interest
	Paper 2 due Friday, November 15 at 11:59 p.m.	
11/18/24	To be determined by class interest	To be determined by class interest
11/20/24	To be determined by class interest	To be determined by class interest
11/25/2024-11/27/2024	Thanksgiving Break: No Class	
12/2/24	Video: <i>The Age of AI</i>	None
12/4/24	Review for Final exam; Lessons from the Course	None

The final exam will be due on Canvas on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.