

**Syllabus for PHI 3681: Ethics, Data, and Technology**  
**Dr. Molly Gardner**  
**University of Florida, Spring 2025**

**LECTURES:**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:50 – 1:40 p.m., Turlington L005 (Molly Gardner)

**DISCUSSIONS:**

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

17490: Fridays, 10:40 – 11:30 a.m., Florida Gymnasium 245 (Ant Conde)  
17491: Fridays, 12:50 – 1:40 p.m., Matherly 3 (Ant Conde)  
17492: Fridays, 1:55 – 2:45 p.m., Matherly 112 (Ant Conde)  
17940: Fridays, 10:40 – 11:30 a.m., Norman 3035 (Jake Haun)  
20530: Fridays, 12:50 – 1:40 p.m., Rinker 215 (Jake Haun)  
20531: Fridays, 1:55 – 2:45 p.m., Matherly 105 (Jake Haun)

**OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Dr. Gardner:

Email: [mollygardner@ufl.edu](mailto:mollygardner@ufl.edu)  
Office: Griffin-Floyd 313  
Office phone: 352-294-0426  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2 – 4 p.m.  
Office Hours Sign-Up Sheet: <http://bit.ly/2vYpCmI>

Anthony “Ant” Conde:

Email: [condea@ufl.edu](mailto:condea@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-4:00 and Thursday 12:00-1:30 on Zoom  
Wednesday Zoom Link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94833151058>  
Thursday Zoom Link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99861456266>

Jake Haun:

Email: [jake.haun@ufl.edu](mailto:jake.haun@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: To be determined

**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, 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><b>5 Quizzes:</b> 10 points each, lowest grade dropped (40 points total)  <i>Each quiz will consist of 4 multiple-choice questions and 3 short-answer questions.</i></p>	<p><b>2 Argument Worksheets:</b> 10 points each (20 points total)  <i>Each worksheet will ask you to reconstruct and evaluate a moral argument about data or technology that you find on your own.</i></p>
<p><b>2 Papers:</b> 65 points each (130 points total)  <i>Each paper should be between 1000 and 1200 words.</i></p>	<p><b>Attendance and Participation:</b> 10 points  <i>(See chart on next page.)</i></p>

**Total:** 200 points

- **Lowest Quiz Grade Dropped:** Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
- **Extra Credit:** You will have the opportunity to earn up to 3 extra credit points over the course of the semester. Please note that in some cases, simply doing an extra credit assignment is not enough to earn extra credit; you must do the assignment well. 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 27 Monday/Wednesday lectures and 13 Friday discussions. This means there are 40 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/>. If this exception applies to you, your participation grade will still be worth 10 points, and it will be determined by how actively engaged you are in your Friday discussions (or possibly in our Monday and Wednesday lectures).

**This “participation only” exception to the attendance policy does not apply to you 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 or argument worksheet, please send me an email at [mollygardner@ufl.edu](mailto: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 your grade for each assignment for lateness.

#### **WORKING WITH OTHERS:**

##### **Papers and Argument Worksheets:**

You may discuss your paper or argument worksheet 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 and complete the worksheets 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 drafts of your papers. 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. If our office hours

are close to being full, we reserve the right to limit the number of meetings we have with you before each paper is due.

You are not permitted to use ChatGPT or any other form of artificial intelligence *at any stage of your writing process*.

### **Quizzes:**

The quizzes are timed, and you will be taking them on Canvas using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. While you are taking the quizzes, you may consult printouts of your notes, the lecture slides, the readings, and any study guides you may have prepared in advance by yourself or with others. However, you are not permitted to consult with others or search the Internet for answers *while you are taking the quiz*. (The Respondus Lockdown Browser will prevent you from doing this.) Nor are you permitted to use ChatGPT or any other form of artificial intelligence while answering quiz questions. After you have taken the quiz, you are not permitted to share any information about the quiz with students who haven't taken the quizzes yet.

### **Extra Credit:**

If an extra credit assignment requires written work, that work must be entirely your own. You are not permitted to work with others on the extra credit, nor are you permitted to copy and paste from the internet or from artificial intelligence.

### **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:**

At the end of the semester, 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/](http://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)
1/13/25	Introduction to Ethics, Data, and Technology; Moral Reasoning	None
1/15/25	Moral Reasoning	<b>David Boonin and Graham Oddie</b> , <i>What's Wrong? Applied Ethicists and Their Critics</i> (excerpt 1)
1/20/25	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No Class</b>	
1/22/25	Moral Reasoning	<b>David Boonin and Graham Oddie</b> , <i>What's Wrong? Applied Ethicists and Their Critics</i> (excerpt 2)
1/27/25	Moral Theory	<b>Russ Shafer-Landau</b> , "Consequentialism: Its Nature and Attractions"
1/29/25	Moral Theory	<b>David McNaughton and Piers Rawling</b> , "Deontology"
2/3/25	<b>Quiz 1 due at 12:50 p.m.</b> Mass Public Surveillance	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 3, excerpt 1
2/5/25	Mass Public Surveillance	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 3, excerpt 2 <b>Non-Required Reading:</b> Judith Thomson, "The Right to Privacy"
2/10/25	Mass Public Surveillance	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 3, excerpt 3 <b>Non-Required Reading:</b> Andrei Marmor, "What is the Right to Privacy?"
2/12/25	Dataveillance	<b>Benedict Rumbold and James Wilson</b> , "Privacy Rights and Public Information"
	<b>Argument Worksheet 1 due Friday, February 14 at 11:59 p.m.</b>	
2/17/25	Privacy and the Law	<b>William J. Stuntz</b> , "The Distribution of Fourth Amendment Privacy" <b>Non-Required Readings:</b> Alderman and Kennedy, <i>The Right to Privacy</i> excerpt

		Solove, Rotenberg, and Schwartz, <i>Privacy, Information, and Technology</i> excerpt
2/19/25	<b>Quiz 2 due at 12:50 p.m.</b> Fairness and Policing	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 2, excerpt 1 <b>Non-Required Readings:</b> Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi, “Targeted” Cathy O’Neil, <i>Weapons of Math Destruction</i> , Chapter 5
2/24/25	Fairness and Policing	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 2, excerpt 2 <b>Non-Required Reading:</b> David Harris, <i>Profiles in Injustice</i> (excerpt)
2/26/25	Fairness and Policing	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 2, excerpt 3 <b>Non-Required Reading:</b> Douglas Husak, “Policing and Racial Discrimination: Throwing Out the Baby with the Bathwater”
	<b>Paper 1 due Friday, February 28 at 11:59 p.m.</b>	
3/3/25	Opacity and Justice	<b>Douglas Husak</b> , “Why Legal Philosophers (Including Retributivists) Should Be Less Resistant to Risk Based Sentencing” <b>Non-Required Reading:</b> John Monahan and Jennifer Skeem, “Risk Assessment in Criminal Sentencing”
3/5/25	Opacity and Justice	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 4, excerpt 1
3/10/25	<b>Quiz 3 due at 12:50 p.m.</b> Opacity and Justice	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 4, excerpt 2 <b>Non-Required Reading:</b> Clinton Castro, “What’s Wrong with Machine Bias?”
3/12/25	Opacity and Justice	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 4, excerpt 3
<b>3/15 – 3/22</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
3/24/25	AI and Risk	<b>Nick Bostrom</b> , <i>Superintelligence</i> (excerpt)
3/26/25	AI and Risk	<b>William MacAskill</b> , <i>What We Owe the Future</i> (excerpt)
3/31/25	<b>Quiz 4 due at 12:50 p.m.</b> Responsibility and War	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 5, excerpt 1
4/2/25	Responsibility and War	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 5, excerpt 2
	<b>Argument Worksheet 2 due Friday, April 4 at 11:15 p.m.</b>	

4/7/25	Responsibility and War	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 5, excerpt 3
4/9/25	Responsibility and War	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State</i> , Chapter 5, excerpt 4
	<b>Paper 2 due Friday, April 11 at 11:59 p.m.</b>	
4/14/25	Gender and Data	<b>Caroline Criado Perez</b> , <i>Invisible Women</i> (excerpt)
4/16/25	Social Media	<b>Timothy Aylsworth and Clinton Castro</b> , "Is There a Duty to Be a Digital Minimalist?"
4/21/25	Social Media	<b>Jonathan Haidt</b> , <i>The Anxious Generation</i> (excerpt)
4/23/25	Lessons from the Course	None

*This is no final exam for this course, but in place of the final exam, Quiz 5 will be due on Canvas on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.*