

PHIL 164 Technology and Human Values

Syllabus
Spring 2017
Time: MW 7:00-8:20 pm
Sequoyah Hall
Room 148

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Office: HSS 7017
Office Hours: M 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Overview

This class applies philosophical analysis to questions concerning technology. We begin with a brief examination of theoretical positions for and against technological determinism before examining philosophical issues arising from particular forms of technology, including nuclear bombs, military robots, geoengineer, the Internet, fMRI machines and artificial intelligence.

Assessment

Students are required to write four essays in this class according to the following schedule, collectively worth 75% of the final grade:

A 1,500-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday April 25

A 2000-word word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday May 23

Two exam-essays due during the scheduled exam time

The best three essays will count toward the final grade.

If a student only writes three essays, their final grade will be based on their best two essay grades and a third essay grade of zero. Similarly, if a student writes only two essays, their final grade will be based on their best essay grade and two essay grades of zero. In other words, a student's worst essay grade is always excluded when determining their final class grade.

The remainder of the class grade will be based on the following:

In-class clicker sessions (10%) Participation (15%) (attendance 5 +
discussion 10)

Students who miss more than two classes without an excuse will receive an attendance grade of zero.

Students who are taking this class pass/fail who achieve a participation grade of A- or higher do not have to complete the final exam essays.

Readings and Schedule

Students are required to obtain a copy of the class reader at Cal Copy, 3251 Holiday Court, Unit # 103. Cal Copy is located behind the Mobil gas station directly south of campus between Villa La Jolla Dr & Villa Norte. See <http://www.calcopy.net/#> for more info.

Before week nine students are also required to obtain a copy of Dreyfus's book *On The Internet*, which will be available at the bookstore.

1. Week of April 3: Intro to Phil 164

No Class Monday

2. Week of April 10: Technological Determinism

McLuhan, Marshall, *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* (New York: 1964) "Introduction" 3-6; "Medium is the Message," 7-21; "The Printed Word," 170-78.; "Television," 308-37;

Wyatt, Sally. "Technological Determinism is Dead; Long Live Technological Determinism." *The Handbook of Science and Technology Studies*, Edward Hackett, ed. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2008): 165-180.

3. Week of April 17: Technologies of War

Sparrow, Robert. "Killer Robots." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 24 (2007): 62-77.

Glover, Jonathan. *Humanity: A Moral History of the Twentieth Century* (London: Pimlico, 2001): 89-112.

4. Week of April 24: Recording

Gould, Glenn, "Let's Ban Applause," "The Prospects of Recording" and "Music and Technology." *The Glenn Gould Reader*, Tim Page ed. (New York: Vintage, 1990): 245-49, 331-52, 353-56.

First essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday April 25

5. Week of May 1: Geoengineering

Rayner, Steve, et al. "The Oxford Principles of Geoengineering," (2011). Available at <http://www.geoengineering.ox.ac.uk/oxford-principles/principles/>

Powell, Russell, et al., "The Ethics of Geoengineering: Working Draft," (2010). Available at http://www.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/21325/Ethics_of_Geoengineering_Working_Draft.pdf

Gardiner, Stephen. "Is 'arming the future' with geoengineering really the lesser evil? Some doubts about the ethics of intentionally manipulating the climate system." In *Climate Ethics: Essential Readings*, Stephen Gardiner, Simon Caney, Dale Jamieson and Henry Shue, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010): 284-314.

6. Week of May 8: fMRI Technology and Morality

Green, Joshua, R. Brian Sommerville, Leigh Nystrom, John Darley, and Jonathan Cohen. "An fMRI Investigation of Emotional Engagement in Moral Judgment," *Science* 293 (2001): 2105-8.

Green, Joshua. "The Secret Joke of Kant's Soul," in *Moral Psychology, Vol. 3: The Neuroscience of Morality: Emotion, Brain Disorders, and Development*, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong ed. (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008): 1-53.

Berker, Selim, "The normative insignificance of neuroscience." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 37 (2009): 293-329.

7. Week of May 15: Artificial Intelligence I

Turing, Alan, "Computing Machinery and Intelligence," *Mind* 59 (1950): 433-60.

Hubert Dreyfus and Stuart Dreyfus, "Why Computers May Never Think Like People," *Readings in the Philosophy of Technology, Second Edition*, David M. Kaplan ed. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009).

8: Week of May 22: Artificial Intelligence II

Searle, John R. "Minds, Brains, and Programs." *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 3.03 (1980): 417-424.

Boden, Margaret, "Escaping from the Chinese Room," in *The Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence*, M. A. Boden ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.

Churchland, Paul and Patricia Churchland, "Could a Machine Think?" *Scientific American*, January (1990): 32-7.

Second essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday May 23

9. Week of May 29: Embodiment and The Internet I

Monday: No Class

Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. *The Phenomenology of Perception*. Colin Smith trans. (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1962), 98-153.

Dreyfus, Hubert. *On the Internet*. (London: Routledge, 2008): 1-48.

10. Week of June 5: The Internet II

Dreyfus, Hubert. *On the Internet*. (London: Routledge, 2008): 49-107.

Week of June 12: Final exam: See schedule online

General Information

Office Hours

I will be keeping both normal and electronic office hours. You are welcome to drop by in person or, if you prefer, contacting me via Skype. Just drop me an email so I know to go on Skype, where my ID is andy_lamey. I am also available by appointment outside my office hours. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Email Policy

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to

emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.
- b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

Submission

Both essays in this class will be submitted electronically. Students are not required to submit a hard copy.

One-time Discretionary Essay Extension

I am happy to grant each student one essay extension of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Late Work

For all assignments of 1,000 words or more handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your instructor. Assignments that are handed in late and without extension will be returned after those completed on time and will not receive comments.

Feedback

Feedback on written work may take the form of written comments or oral comments from the instructor in a recorded video.

Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information:

858.534.4382 (phone) osd@ucsd.edu (email) <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (web)

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2>

Technology in the Classroom

Until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in class.

Waitlist

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

The Exam

All students except those registered with the OSD are required to take the exam on the day and time scheduled during finals week.