



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Irving K. Barber Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Okanagan Campus

PHIL 331 001 (3) Computer Ethics 2022 W1

Instructor

Name: Jennifer F. Ingle, Ph. D.

Office: Zoom. The waiting room is enabled.

✉ (jennifer.ingle@ubc.ca)

🕒 Virtual Office: Tuesday/Thursday 10-11:00 am via Zoom, waiting room enabled -
<https://ubc.zoom.us/j/7116629186?pwd=U090VDh4NklzemZMcXhXMzJRTk1Udz09>

Meeting ID: 711 662 9186 Passcode: 847997

Or make an appointment using: <https://calendly.com/drjingle/student-meeting>

TAs

Name: Brian Murphy

🕒 Office Hours: TBA

Office: TBD

✉ brian.murphy@ubc.ca

Name: Christine Semeniuk

✉ christine.semeniuk@ubc.ca

Office Hours/Location: TBA

Class Discord Server: <https://discord.gg/eVST7KVTmV>

I've found that some students find it useful to chat with one another in Discord. This is optional. It is also non-compliant with privacy laws in Canada, so make sure you don't leak personal information like your student ID on the server.

Academic Calendar Entry:

PHIL 331 (3) Computer Ethics

Ethical and professional issues facing those who work with computers. Piracy, hacking, responsibility, and liability for the use of software; cyberpornography and freedom of information; computerized invasion of privacy; computers in the workplace; the use of artificial intelligence; and expert systems. [3-0-0]

Prerequisite: Third-year standing in an Arts program and 3 credits of PHIL, or third-year standing in a Science program.

Course Format:

Online through Canvas. Lesson notes and lectures; online discussion, reading, and writing. This course is designed to be entirely asynchronous due to the high numbers of international students that take this course as a requirement. That means all lecture content is delivered via Canvas via recorded video, audio or text. There are no *required* synchronous lectures. The class is organized around Modules. On the course home page there is a list of Modules covered each week. **All dates and times are local to UBCO.** The usual calculation for student workload is 3 credit hours = 8-9 hours student workload per week. The course is organized in locked Modules.

- What this means is that you must complete certain tasks such as viewing pages, submitting assignments and taking quizzes, **before the next week's module will become available to you.**
- Note for eager completionists: I applaud you, but do not expect early submissions of assignments to be graded early. (Also remember to go back and respond to a peer on the discussion boards).
- **No work is accepted after December 8.**

Course Overview:



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This course examines ethical decision-making for professionals in computing and users of computers in the context of some of the most influential ethical theories and moral systems of thought. The world is exceedingly complex, as it is an entanglement of interests – corporate, political, social, and individual. Our lives, more often than we'd like, require us to balance those interests. Computing technologies exist in the midst of that entanglement of interests. We will move through a series of contemporary debates over a range of topics, from piracy to privacy, as we endeavor to construct an ethical framework for decision-making that has practical applications in the field. The goal is to develop the type of ethical acumen necessary to successfully navigate the challenges that face professionals in computing and the broader constituency of our computing culture.

Course Objectives:

- Introduction to a number of ethical tools to approach ethical problems in computing technology.
- Familiarity with the ACM Code of Ethics and the obligations that computing professionals have to the general public, their employer, and themselves.
- Understand ethical issues in computing technology and the trade-offs made within particular issues.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify different types of ethical reasoning.
- Apply ethical reasoning to cases in computing technology.
- Situate and critically reflect on the moral dilemmas of computing within the context of ethical theory.

Evaluation Criteria and Grading:

Descriptions of assignments and associated rubrics are available on Canvas.

Participation: Discussions/Assignments/Quizzes	10%	
Midterm	30%	Oct 6 6:30pm PST
Group Video Essay	20%	Dec 2 10:00am PST
Final Exam (cumulative)	40%	During Final exam period, TBA
Total	100%	

Policy on Late Work

- Late work is accepted but receives a penalty of -5% per day the work is late.
- Work is never accepted after a **lock date**.
- Quizzes are due and locked the same day – therefore, you may never submit a late quiz.
- Discussions and assignments have both a due date and a lock date. This means you can submit the assignment or discussion after the due date, until the lock date. The work will receive a penalty of -5% per day.

Participation Quizzes, Discussion, Assignments

Quizzes

Quizzes are short, five question quizzes that are given in Canvas after each section, timed at ten minutes. They are intended to help you assess whether you have grasped the main points of the lecture/reading. You have the option of taking each quiz up to three times before the due/lock date. Canvas will keep the highest score. Quizzes are due and locked on the same day. Correct answers are available the day after a quiz is due/locked.



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Discussions

Each unit will have a discussion board that asks you to chat about a question with your peers. It is important to use these discussion boards to practice explaining and justifying your thoughts. This will help you for the paper and the exams. What I mean by this is to always give a reason or justification for any claims, assertions, or opinions. Philosophy is all about 'the why' - why is that true, why is that false, why do you believe that, why does so and so believe that, etc. All of these assignments are 'low-stake' practice for 'higher-stake' work.

'Assignments' is a catch-all term for any work I assign that isn't a short quiz nor a chatting board. The plagiarism test is one such assignment. Summarizing an article in four sentences or creating a 200+ words argument in response to a position is another.

Midterm exam

The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer essay questions.

Rules

- The midterm is timed at one hour.
- You may only take the midterm once.
- You must take the midterm alone.
- The midterm must be taken during our assigned class time.
- You may consult the course materials during the midterm (I would not recommend relying on this due to the time limit).
- No invigilation nor invasive software is required.
- The midterm is gated; you must complete all the previous work to take the exam. **If you do not finish the modules the exam will not be available to you.** You have until Oct 2 11:59pm to complete *all* work for the first half of the course.

Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative and occurs when UBCO assigns us a time slot during the final exam period. The final exam will be similar to the midterm in format. **It must be taken during the time assigned by UBCO.**

Group Video Essay

Working in groups of five, students will produce an ethical analysis of a 'sticky' case in computing technology. Details will be made available on Canvas after the first drop date.

Grading Practices

Faculties, departments, and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to University, faculty, department, or school norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department, or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,41,90,1014>

90–100	A+
85–89	A



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80–84	A-
76–79	B+
72–75	B
68–71	B-
64–67	C+
60–63	C
55–59	C-
50–54	D
0–49	F (fail)

Missed Graded Work

Note that even though this course is online and can be taken as completely asynchronous, it is imperative that you keep up with the work. This is your responsibility. Falling behind in the class due to inattentiveness or failing to balance your other University or life obligations are not reasons for me to accept late work.

Students who, because of unforeseen events, are absent during the term and are unable to complete tests or other graded work, should discuss with their instructors how they can make up for missed work. Instructors *are not required* to make allowance for any missed test or incomplete work that is not satisfactorily accounted for. If ill health is an issue, students are encouraged to seek attention from a health professional. [Campus Health](#) and [Counselling](#) will normally provide documentation only to students who have been seen previously at these offices for treatment or counselling specific to conditions associated with their academic difficulties. Students who feel that requests for consideration have not been dealt with fairly by their instructors may take their concerns first to the Head of the discipline, and if not resolved, to the Office of the Dean. Further information can be found at:
<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>.

Final Examination:

The examination period for Term (1) of Winter 2022 is Dec. 11-22. Except in the case of examination clashes and hardships (three or more formal examinations scheduled within a 24-hour period) or unforeseen events, students will be permitted to apply for out-of-time final examinations only if they are representing the University, the province, or the country in a competition or performance; serving in the Canadian military; observing a religious rite; working to support themselves or their family; or caring for a family member. Unforeseen events include (but may not be limited to) the following: ill health or other personal challenges that arise during a term and changes in the requirements of an ongoing job. Further information on Academic Concessions can be found under Policies and Regulations in the *Okanagan Academic Calendar* <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>. Out-of-time examination forms can be found at (<http://ikbsas.ok.ubc.ca/students/undergrad/forms.html>) and must be sent to the Dean's office.

Extra Credit:

I occasionally give extra credit in this course. Extra credit is always offered to the entire class, and *never* to individual students only.



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Required Materials:

- Internet access on a daily basis for the duration of the course.
- (Recommended) Netflix access for Black Mirror Episodes
- Zoom
- Camera and Mic for Zoom sessions
- Microsoft Word, PowerPoint
- Adobe Reader

Responsibility:

- For an online course there is an even greater responsibility on you, personally, to keep track of due dates for all your courses. It is my responsibility to make certain that due dates are logged in the course calendar, and that each week I post a reminder announcement at the beginning of the week. However, it is your responsibility to check the calendar and read the announcements. “I forgot” is not a reasonable excuse for missing a due date. Reasonable excuses are the usual: medical, military, government, university-related trips, etc. Late work is thus docked 5%/day.
- It is your responsibility
 - to read all Canvas announcements as well as any emails I send,
 - to track your grades on Canvas, and
 - to be aware of due dates for all assignments.
 - **to determine how due dates and times translate to your time zone.**
- **If you have an accommodation with the DRC** it is your responsibility to schedule exams with the DRC and inform me in advance of any issues with submission of your work.

Course Requirements:

- You are expected to log in to Canvas while class is in session and read the announcements, new discussion board posts, and content.
- It is required that you will adjust your Canvas settings to allow for Announcements to be received via an email of your choice. Go to Account Settings / Notifications if you are not receiving Announcements via email.

A note about marks in a humanities class

Scoring, for a philosophy class, always reflects quality. It’s easier to think about quantitative scoring when you translate the marks to a qualitative reference. For instance,

10	100%	A+
9	90%	A
8	80%	A-
7	70%	B
6	60%	C
5	50%	D
4	40%	F

Optional Synchronous Session Schedule

Synchronous sessions are not *required* (as not everyone is in the same time zone, and I understand many of you have family and work obligations) - but discussions are an important part of learning philosophy and you are strongly encouraged to attend. Last year the synchronous sessions were effective in helping students stay connected to the course material.



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Synchronous sessions will be conducted using Zoom. On Canvas, you can find the details for the sessions. Review the Zoom Guidelines below.

Zoom Guidelines

Most Zoom sessions are recorded and made available to the class on Canvas the next day. (It is not an immediate process.)

This class will have optional *synchronous* discussion via Zoom. I expect that you will attend the discussion if you can. This class (face to face) is usually discussion based and so this time every week is quite important to learning, and doing, philosophy. You are expected to do the readings/listen to the podcasts/watch the relevant media before class time and come prepared to discuss the material or ask questions. The vibrancy of the class discussion is paramount for you to get the most out of this class.

Sometimes, the material and the discussions can be difficult, especially with sensitive topics. We must strive to make the classroom a space in which everyone feels like they can contribute and be heard. Open discussion and disagreement are encouraged in a respectful manner. All comments should be treated with respect so that everyone can feel comfortable raising points of disagreement when they arise, and for testing out ideas to figure out what works and what doesn't work. The goal of cooperative dialogue is to further our understanding, not to win points or avoid conflict. You should make an effort to listen carefully to each other as your peers have much to say that is insightful, and their points of view deserve careful attention. Building this community of trust is harder in a fully remote space, so for this class to work well, it will require a lot of flexibility, patience, and empathy from all of us.

For these reasons:

- Be on time and be ready to participate.
- Keep your video on when possible. Although many of the physical cues we rely on when communicating with each other are missing, the visual cues are important for discussion and community. Please feel free, however, to use whatever virtual backgrounds you'd like (barring the offensive, of course). Imaginary points will be rewarded for the most creative backgrounds. However, if occasionally you need to turn off your video (e.g., you've got to take a bio break), you're an adult and you should do that.
- Make sure that you display your preferred name and pronouns on Zoom. Edit your profile on the webpage (add preferred pronouns to the last name field).
- If you are not talking, mute your audio. Nonetheless, be engaged; ask questions via chat, raise your hand, use the clap button when you like a point, participate in polls, etc.
- Avoid disruptions during Zoom sessions if possible. But if your roommate, pet, or sibling walks into your room while you are Zooming, do not sweat it. Life happens! Deal with the disruption and turn your focus back to the class as soon as possible. My cat or spouse will likely interrupt more than once.
- Make sure you've turned off the audio alerts on your desktop/phone.
- You're welcome to wear whatever you want (suit, pajamas, unicorn onesie, whatever, just be clothed) and to Zoom from wherever it's most comfortable to Zoom for our discussion time. Eat, drink, vape, whatever: just be comfortable and attentive.

Remember to respect others and uphold privacy law. Do not record these sessions. Respect for each other and protection of privacy are more important this term than ever before in this online environment.



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Access to the Canvas course site is limited to students currently registered in this course. Under no circumstance are students permitted to provide any other person with means to access this material. Anyone violating these restrictions may be subject to legal action. Permission to electronically record any course materials must be granted by the instructor. Distribution of this material to a third party is forbidden.

Online learning advisory

During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression>.

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at <http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>.

UBC Okanagan Disability Resource Centre

The Disability Resource Centre ensures educational equity for students with disabilities and chronic medical conditions. If you are disabled, have an injury or illness and require academic accommodations to meet the



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course objectives, please contact Earllene Roberts, the Diversity Advisor for the Disability Resource Centre located in the University Centre building (UNC 214).

UNC 214 250.807.9263

email earllene.roberts@ubc.ca Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/drc

Student Learning Hub

The Student Learning Hub is your go-to resource for free learning support—now online and flexible to meet your remote learning needs! The Hub welcomes undergraduate students from all disciplines and years to access a range of supports that include tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing, as well as dedicated learning support to help you develop skills and strategies for academic success. Don't wait—successful learners access support early and often. For more information, visit students.ok.ubc.ca/hub or contact learning.hub@ubc.ca.

Ombuds Office

The Ombuds Office offers independent, impartial, and confidential support to students in navigating UBC policies, processes, and resources, as well as guidance in resolving concerns related to fairness.

UBC Vancouver Ombuds Office:

email: ombuds.office@ubc.ca Web: www.ombudsoffice.ubc.ca

UBC Okanagan Equity and Inclusion Office

UBC Okanagan is a place where every student, staff and faculty member should be able to study and work in an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. UBC prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of the following grounds: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or unrelated criminal conviction. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, discrimination or harassment, or to get involved in human rights work on campus, please contact the Equity and Inclusion Office.

UNC 216 250.807.9291

email: equity.ubco@ubc.ca Web: www.equity.ok.ubc.ca

Health & Wellness

At UBC Okanagan health services to students are provided by Health and Wellness. Nurses, physicians and counsellors provide health care and counselling related to physical health, emotional/mental health and sexual/reproductive health concerns. As well, health promotion, education and research activities are provided to the campus community. If you require assistance with your health, please contact Health and Wellness for more information or to book an appointment.

UNC 337 Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness

SAFEWALK

Don't want to walk alone at night? Not too sure how to get somewhere on campus? Call Safewalk at 250-807-8076.

For more information, see: www.security.ok.ubc.ca