**CCT432H5 F**

Ethics and Code

Fall 2025 Syllabus

**Course Meetings**

**CCT432H5 F**

| **Section** | **Day & Time** | **Delivery Mode & Location** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEC0101** | Monday, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM | In Person: MN 2110 |

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Most up to date information will appear on Quercus.

**Course Contacts**

**Instructor:** Tero Karppi

**Email:** [tero.karppi@utoronto.ca](mailto:tero.karppi@utoronto.ca)

**Office Hours and Location:** Virtual, by appointment only

**Additional Notes:** I will answer emails in 3 days excluding weekends. Please use the course code when sending an email.

**Course Overview**

A self-driving car should always protect pedestrians, even if that implies serious threat for the vehicle's passengers. Current ethical challenges within our computational cultures has brought forward dilemmas involving code such as designing killer robots, the use of technology to predict and prevent crimes before they happen, and platform surveillance in social media. Students in this course will use theories and case based examples to examine questions such as what is meant with ethics in new media and critical computing, can we program computational systems according to ethical models, and does digital culture force us to rethink what ethics are?

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Goals and Learning Objectives:

* General understanding of the key questions and problems related to Ethics and Code
* General understanding of different technologies and fields where Ethics is becoming relevant
* Abilities to critically analyze the current computational landscape and its technologies
* Abilities to analyze and write modern technological phenomena
* Abilities to work in a group and present work publically

**Prerequisites**: A minimum of 13.0 credits.

**Corequisites**: None

**Exclusions:** None

**Recommended Preparation**: None

**Credit Value:** 0.5

**Marking Scheme**

| **Assessment** | **Percent** | **Details** | **Due Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Final Paper** | 30% |  | 2025‑11‑25 |
| **Mid-term paper** | 30% |  | 2025‑10‑24 |
| **Group Presentation** | 15% |  | Ongoing |
| **Quizzes** | 20% |  | Ongoing |
| **Activity and attendance** | 5% | Active participation in class activities such as participating in discussions, responding to group presentations, and attending the lectures counts. Attending the lectures gets you to 2/5 percent. | Ongoing |

Assessment Descriptions:

* Quiz. There will 5 multiple choice quizzes based on the readings and 4 best scores will count. We will use Quercus for the quizzes. If you are unable to use Quercus during the class, a paper option will be provided.
* Group Presentation: During this course you will be formed into groups to create and give presentations. You can choose a theme that fits in the scope of ethics and code freely. The length of the presentation is 15 minutes. Each student will present once as part of the group during the semester. Slides of the presentation need to be uploaded to Quercus.
* Final paper: Ethics and Code Diary. You will write 5 one page entries that identify contemporary examples where theories of ethics and code are relevant and uses the course readings to analyze them. All the texts must be returned by November 25.
* Mid term Essay. The essay will be connected to a screening shown during week 5 , the readings associated with it, and readings of your choosing. More details will be given closer to the screening. 5 pages + references.
* Written assignments: Font 12pt, line spacing 1.5. Return via Quercus. Participation matters. Coming prepared and having read the materials will help you to participate in the discussions.
* Active participation in class activities such as participating in discussions, responding to group presentations, and attending the lectures counts. Attending the lectures gets you to 2/5 percent.

**Late Assessment Submissions Policy**

"You are expected to complete assignments on time. There will be a penalty for lateness of 10% deducted per day and work that is not handed in one week after the due date will not be accepted."

**Course Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Description** |
| **Week 1**  8/9 | Introduction |
| **Week 2**  15/9 | Ethics  -readings on quercus -group presentations |
| **Week 3**  22/9 | Silicon Valley and Ethics  -readings on quercus -group presentations |
| **Week 4**  29/9 | Ethics of Profiling  -readings on quercus -group presentations |
| **Week 5**  6/10 | Screening (online or in person)  -readings on quercus -see mid-term assignment |
| 13/10 | Thanksgiving no class |
| **Week 6**  20/10 | Social Robotics  -readings on quercus -group presentations |
| 27/10 | Reading week no class |
| **Week 7**  3/11 | AI and Ethics  -readings on quercus -group presentations |
| **Week 8**  10/11 | Ethics of digital warfare  -readings on quercus -group presentations |
| **Week 9**  17/11 | Digital Well-being  -readings on quercus -group presentations |
| **Week 10**  24/11 | TBA  -readings on quercus |
| **Week 11**  1/12 | Bioethics  -readings on quercus -group presentations |
| **Week 12**  2/12 | Conclusion: Future Ethics  -readings on quercus -group presentations (if needed) |

**Policies & Statements**

**Academic Integrity**

The Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters states that:  
  
The University and its members have a responsibility to ensure that a climate that might encourage, or conditions that might enable, cheating, misrepresentation, or unfairness is not tolerated. To this end, all must acknowledge that seeking credit or other advantages by fraud or misrepresentation, or seeking to disadvantage others by disruptive behaviour, is unacceptable, as is any dishonesty or unfairness in dealing with the work or record of a student.  
  
It is your responsibility as a student at the University of Toronto to familiarize yourself with, and adhere to, both the Code of Student Conduct and the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.  
This means, first and foremost, that you should read them carefully.  
  
[Code of Student Conduct](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-student-conduct-december-13-2019) and the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019) are available from the U of T website.

**Religious Accommodations**

Information about the University's Policy on Scheduling of Classes and Examinations and Other Accommodations for Religious Observances is at <https://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/student-resources/rights-responsibilities/accommodation-religious/>

**Declaration of Temporary Absence**

Students who miss an academic obligation during the term (i.e., in-class assessment, quiz, paper or lab report) may use the ACORN Absence Declaration Tool to record an absence in one or more courses. Students may utilize this option once per term for a single absence period of up to seven consecutive days. The declaration period must include the day of declaration and may include past and/or future dates, for a total of up to 7 calendar days.  
  
Use of the ACORN Absence Declaration does not require supporting documentation and should be used in addition to the missed term work policy outlined in the course syllabus. It remains the student’s responsibility to initiate the process for missed academic obligations by following the instructions in the course syllabus.

**Re-grading Term Work**

A student who believes that their written term work has been unfairly marked may ask the person who marked the work for re-evaluation. Students have up to one month from the date of return of an item of term work to inquire about the mark. If the student is not satisfied with this re-evaluation, they may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the work was not marked by the instructor (e.g., was marked by a TA). Such re-marking may involve the entire piece of work and may raise or lower the mark. For more information on policies regarding re-marking of term work, please refer to [Re-marking Pieces of Term Work in the Academic Calendar](https://utm.calendar.utoronto.ca/term-work-tests-and-appeals).

**Accommodation for Missed Tests and Late Assignments**

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**Students must use the new** [UTM Special Consideration Request [Pilot] application](https://uoft.service-now.com/utm_scr) **for all ICCIT courses.**

Students in **CCT109H5, CCT110H5, CCT111H5, CCT112H5 and CCT208H5** should always follow the Special Consideration Request (SCR) process outlined below. Students in other classes should follow the process below only if they are seeking accommodation for tests or assignments worth 20% or more of the final grade. Students in other classes seeking accommodation for tests or assignments worth less than 20% should contact their instructors directly.

 Reasons for special consideration could **include:**

* Accident
* Illness
* Emergency procedure
* Bereavement
* University-sponsored athletics/competitions
* Compulsory legal duties e.g. (jury duty)
* Religious accommodations
* Disability accommodations

Reasons for special consideration **do not include\*:**

* Pre-planned vacations or social commitments
* Transportation delays
* Technology malfunctions
* Time management, course loads Course conflicts, team work conflicts
* Misreading a deadline/timetable
* Late course enrolment
* Scheduled elective medical appointments

\* For these situations, refer to your course syllabus and speak directly with your instructor.

You have **three days or 72 Hours (including weekends**) from the assignment deadline or date of the missed test/quiz to **complete the SCR process in full.**

The first time in the semester that you are seeking accommodation, please complete the following steps:

1. Login to [ACORN](https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/), and click on Profile & Settings from the left-hand menu.
2. Click on Absence Declaration
3. Record each day that you are absent – as soon as it begins up until the day you return to campus for classes or other activities.
4. Login to the [UTM Special Consideration Request [Pilot] application system](https://uoft.service-now.com/utm_scr) and complete the required steps. Documentation is not required.

For all subsequent times that you require an accommodation, you should only login to the [UTM Special Consideration Request [Pilot] application system](https://uoft.service-now.com/utm_scr) and complete the required steps. Documentation is not required, however, it may be requested after the SCR has been reviewed. On your SCR form, please attach a screenshot from Quercus showing the assessment title and deadline. This will help us process your SCR accurately and avoid any misunderstandings.

Important note about missed makeup tests: As stated in the [Academic Calendar](https://utm.calendar.utoronto.ca/term-work-tests-and-appeals), "If the student is granted permission to take a makeup test and misses it, then they are assigned a mark of zero for the test unless the instructor is satisfied that missing the makeup test was unavoidable. Students are not automatically entitled to a second makeup test."

If you are registered with Accessibility Services, and the reason for missing a test or a deadline pertains to a disability, you are still required to submit an SCR at the link above. In such cases, the department will accept documentation supplied by Accessibility Services. If you require further information, please speak with your Accessibility Services advisor.

Further details regarding SCR policy are available here: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/iccit/students/student-resources/policies-procedures/special-consideration-requests-scr-late-assignments>

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services as soon as possible. Accessibility staff (located in room 2240, Student Services Hub, Davis Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. Please call 905-569-4699 or email [access.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:access.utm@utoronto.ca). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

**Code of Student Conduct**

All students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct ([Code of Student Conduct [December 13, 2019] | The Office of the Governing Council, Secretariat](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-student-conduct-december-13-2019)).

**Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)**

The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills (RGASC) supports undergraduate and graduate students in their academic skill development (e.g., writing, note taking, time management, study planning, mathematics and numeracy, research). We offer a range of supports, including individual appointments, workshops, and programs (many CCR-accredited). Our programs are designed to help students identify and develop the academic skills they need for success in their studies. The RGASC is located in MN3251 (3rd floor, Maanjiwe nendamowinan building). Explore the RGASC's online resources, book an appointment, and register for one of our programs at <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/rgasc/>.

**University of Toronto Mississauga Library Statement**

**University of Toronto Mississauga Library.** The UTM Library (UTML) is located in the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HM). [Open](https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/hours) seven days a week, UTML welcomes you to the Information Commons where our public services staff and [liaison librarians](https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/librarians) offer individual walk-in research assistance, in-person or virtual appointments, workshops, and programs such as the CCR-accredited Library 101 session series focused on helping you develop the information literacy skills you need to excel in your coursework. Visit the UTML [website](https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/) to find online books, journals, databases, [research guides](https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/ReferenceUTML/REFHandouts), [special collections](https://collections.utm.utoronto.ca/) and more information on [on technology-enriched library spaces](https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/visit/spaces-technology?type=All) such as the [Digital Exploration Lab](https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/spaces/del) and the [Outer Circle Recording Studio](https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/spaces/ocrs).

**Additional Content**

If a student wishes to tape-record, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lecture presentations, course notes or other similar materials provided by instructors, he or she must obtain the instructor’s written consent beforehand. Otherwise all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited.

For more information on copyright and the University of Toronto, please visit https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/copyright/copyright-resources.

The lectures may include materials that are copied and made available to the students under section 30.01 of Canada's Copyright Act. You may not distribute, e-mail or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. You must delete all copies of these materials within 30 days of the end of the course to which they pertain.

Due to the theme of the course some of the materials may feel disturbing. Alternative materials will be provided if requested when possible.