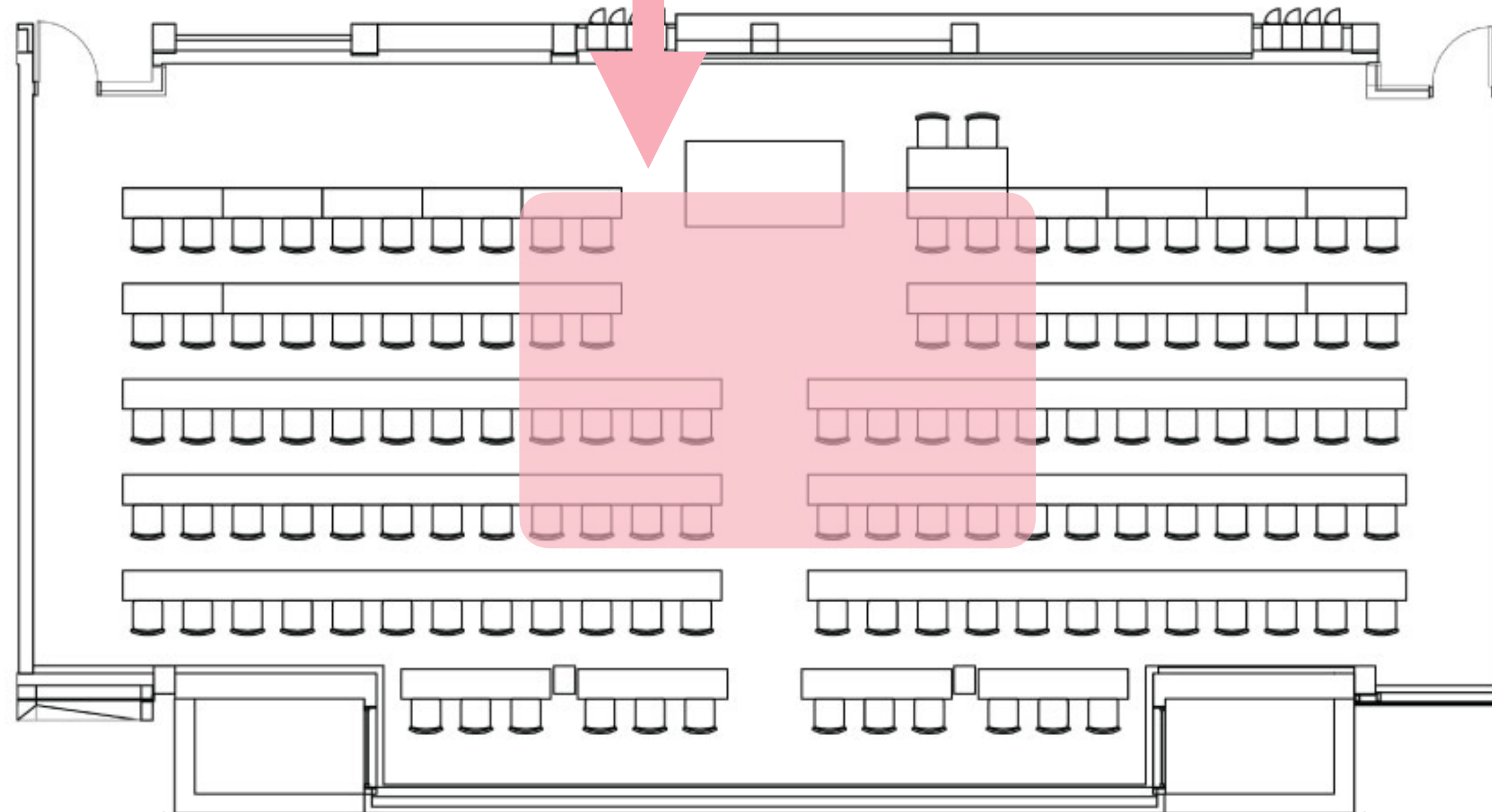


If you know you are soft-spoken, sit here so I can give you a mic so you don't have to scream!



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MCLD 2018



CPSC 430

Computers & Society

Dr. Firas Moosvi | 2024_S2

Slides courtesy of Dr. Kevin Leyton-Brown

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Class Outline

1. Announcements (20 mins)
2. Giving Feedback (30 mins)
3. Introduction to Ethics (30 mins)
4. Persuasion Activity (30 mins)
5. Break (10 mins)
6. Kantianism (30 mins)
7. Reminders before next class (5 mins)

Announcements

Reminders

- Reading quizzes:
 - map onto textbook chapters and assigned readings.
 - are not for credit, but **are required for you to start Peer Reviews** (which are for credit).
 - can be done multiple times, but you must wait 30 mins before each attempt.
- Due to the tight coupling of all assessments, extensions in this course are NOT possible!
 - There is lots of flexibility in some things, and not much flexibility in others please plan accordingly and don't leave things to the last minute.

Reminders

- Peer Reviews
 - PRO is due today at 6 PM
- Calibrations
 - Dependability scores are *NOT* live - it gets updated sporadically
 - After dependability scores are released and you are in the supervised pool, you *MUST* do calibrations

Realistic Dependability Estimate: **0.0**

Pessimistic Dependability Estimate: **0.0**

You should do at least 3 calibrations before the next essay deadline.

Participation Points: **0** + **0** (Bonus)

Giving Feedback

What is Effective Feedback? [10 minutes]

Instructions:

- In your group, assign roles:
 - Scribe: Person to write the group notes
 - Presenter: Person that will share the group's thoughts
 - Facilitator: Person to keep time and discussion on-track
 - Everyone is a contributor
- Prompt:
 - **Describe the characteristics of effective feedback**
- Add your notes here, collaborate with your fellow TAs

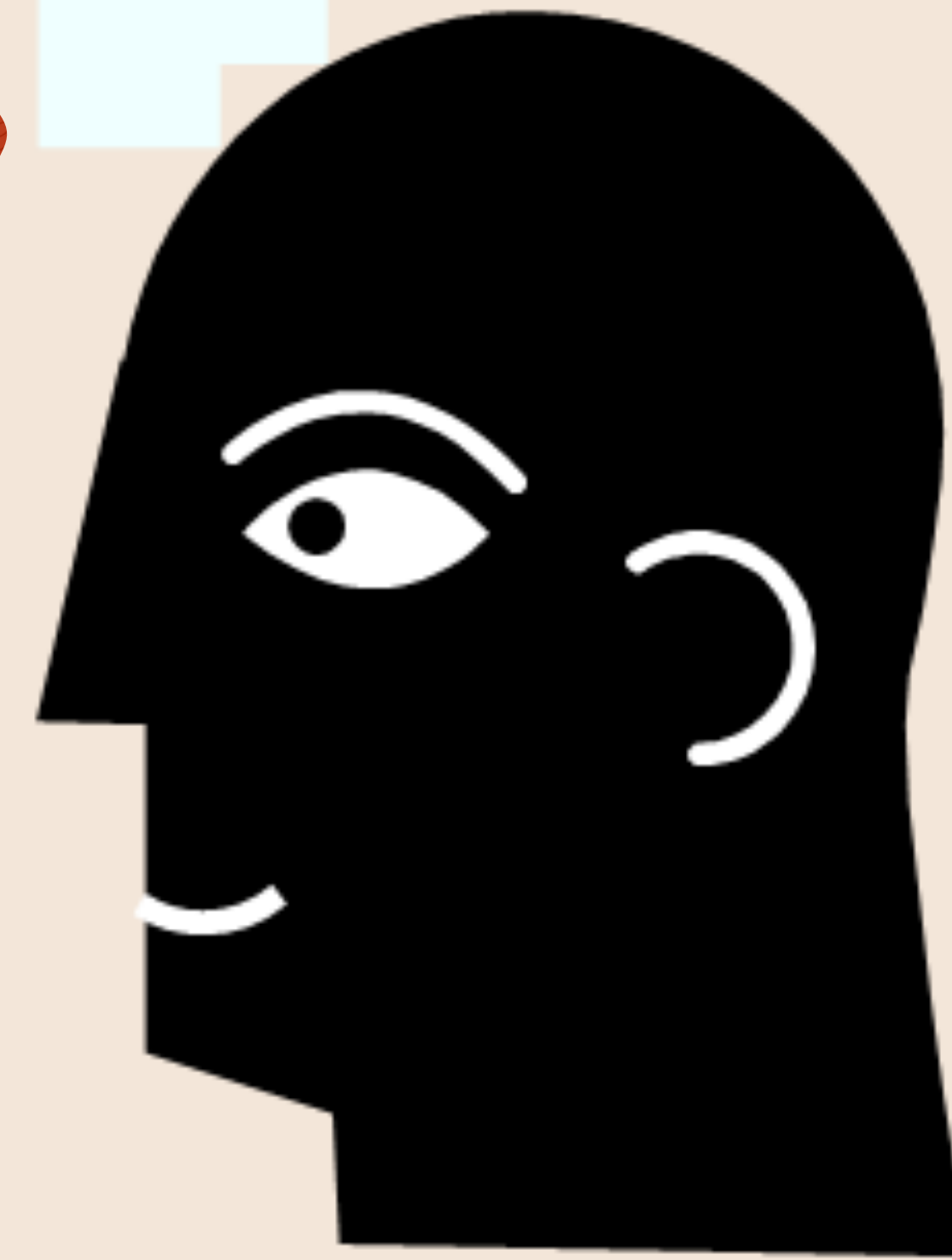
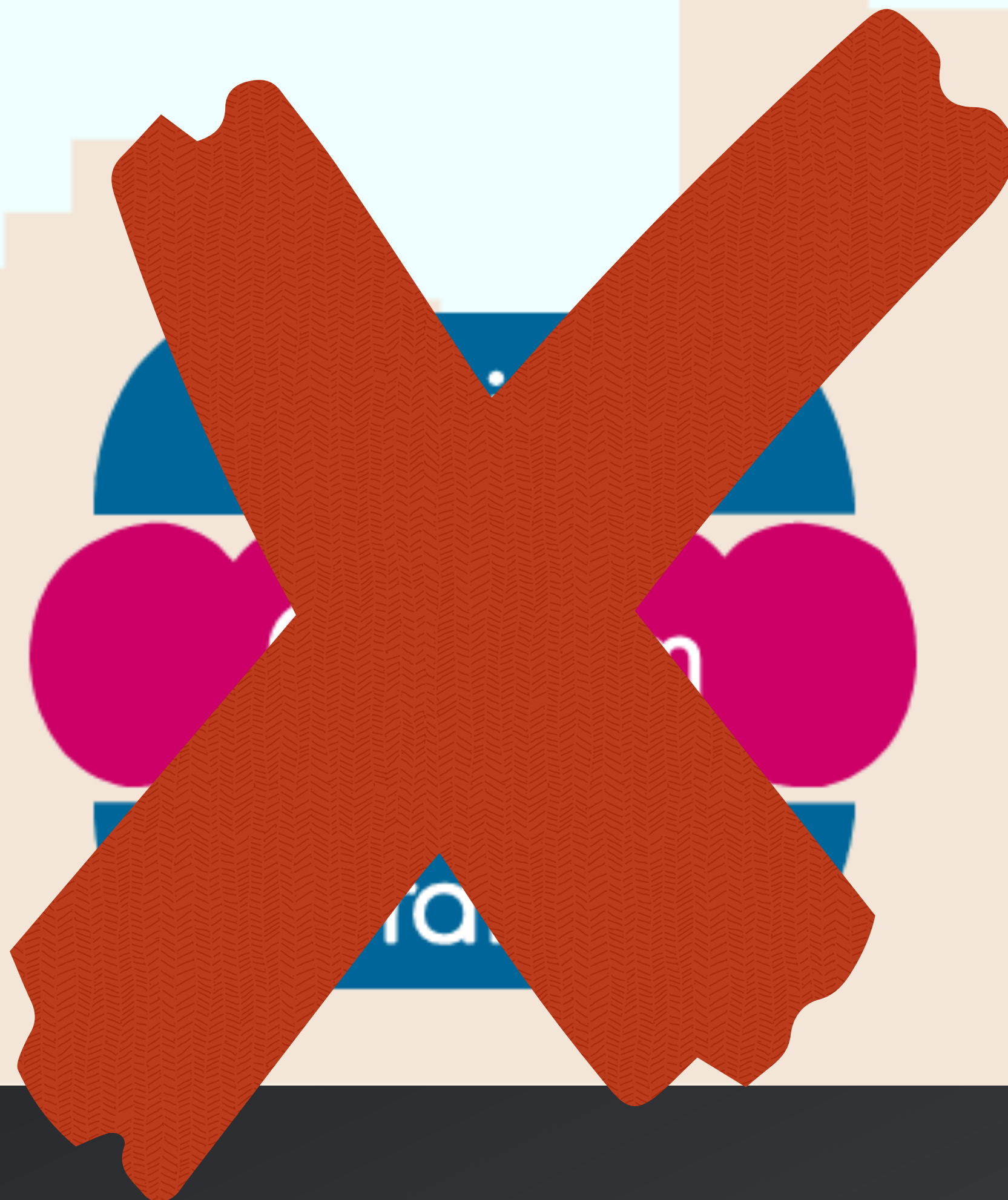
Delivering Feedback

How do people deliver feedback effectively?

Sandwich Feedback Technique



~~Sandwich Feedback Technique~~



Consider an alternative framework: **Strength-based feedback**

Perfect Product



Consider an alternative framework: **Strength-based feedback**

Submitted Product



Perfect Product



Giving Effective Feedback [10 minutes]

Instructions:

- In your table group, split up into pairs and assign roles:
 - Presenter: Someone who explains a concept or idea in 3 mins or less
 - Peer: Take notes and give feedback to the person after they finish
 - Switch roles, pick a different topic, and repeat!
 - Reflect on the experience

Break

Introduction to Ethics

Ethics and Morality

Ethics

Study of morality

Morality

What people ought to or ought not to do

Why do we have a course about ethics and technology?

- Generally need a way to decide the best thing to do
- New problems accompany new technologies
- “Common wisdom” may not exist for novel situations brought about by new technologies

What we're up to here

- **Ethics:** a rational, systematic analysis
- **Workable ethical theory:** produces explanations that aim to be persuasive to a skeptical, yet open-minded audience
- Good, persuasive **arguments**.



1. Subjective Relativism

“Who are you to criticize my values?”

- There's no universal standard of right or wrong.
- Every individual must decide for himself or herself.

2. Cultural Relativism

“Who are you to criticize my culture's values?”

- Moral actions are based on a culture's actual moral guidelines.
- Different cultures have different moral standards.
- It is presumptuous to judge another culture's values.

3. Divine Command Theory

“Stealing is wrong, because the Bible says so.”

- Good actions are actions that God has willed.
- We should therefore use holy books as guides for moral decision making.

4. Ethical Egoism

“Surly looks out for one guy: Surly!”



- People’s self-interest is their only ethical obligation
- Morally right actions are those which advance one’s own long-term interests
- Helping others is moral only insofar as it advances one’s own interests

Persuasion Activity

Scenario: Intellectual Property

- A software company made a financial management program
 - The program stores extremely sensitive financial data about users on users' hard drives
 - The program is very popular, and widely pirated
- During an automatic software update, the company installs a back door that deletes the data of users who are running a pirated copy
 - Only pirates have their data wiped
 - No user of a legal copy loses any data
- Is the company's behavior unethical?
 - A. Yes: The company behaved unethically
 - B. No: The company did not behave unethically

Scenario Variations

- Would your answer be different if:
 - The program was for managing photos instead of finances?
 - The data was stored on the company's servers instead of users' hard drives?
 - The back door existed from the beginning instead of being installed as an update?
 - The back door was disclosed in an End User Licensing Agreement?
 - (that nobody ever reads)

Persuasion Exercise

- Break off into groups of 4
- Assign each person in the group: A, B, C, D
- Secretly I will assign each of A, B, C, and D one ethical theory. Each person must then use that ethical theory to make their arguments on the scenario.
- Once the arguments have been made 2 minutes, for 3 minutes the rest of the group will critique the argument (and identify the ethical theory)
- Switch to another person

Persuasion Exercise

Person A is assigned:

- ☐ subjective relativism
- ☐ cultural relativism
- ☐ divine command theory
- ☐ ethical egoism

Persuasion Exercise

Person B is assigned:

- ☐ subjective relativism
- ☐ cultural relativism
- ☐ divine command theory
- ☐ ethical egoism

Persuasion Exercise

Person C is assigned:

- ☐ subjective relativism
- ☐ cultural relativism
- ☐ divine command theory
- ☐ ethical egoism

Persuasion Exercise

Person D is assigned:

- ☐ subjective relativism
- ☐ cultural relativism
- ☐ divine command theory
- ☐ ethical egoism

Scenario: Intellectual Property

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Debrief

Discussion and Debrief

- What was most convincing about the different arguments?
- What was least convincing?
- Was there a critique that applied to all of the theories?

Kantianism

2.6 Kantianism

- Key goal: derive morality from more basic principles
- Is anything good regardless of its consequences?
- Immanuel Kant: Only thing in the world that is good without qualification is a good will (desire to do the right thing)
 - other things we might call good (e.g., giving to charity) really depend on consequences
- Reason should cultivate desire to do right thing. Make this precise?



Categorical Imperative (1st Formulation)

Act only from moral rules that you can at the ☐ same time will to be universal moral laws.

Illustration of 1st Formulation

- Question: Can a person in dire straits make a promise with the intention of breaking it later?
- Proposed rule: “I may make promises with the intention of later breaking them.”
- The person in trouble wants his promise to be believed so he can get what he needs.
- Universalize rule: Everyone may make & then break promises
- Everyone breaking promises would make promises unbelievable, contradicting desire to have promise believed
- The rule is flawed. The answer is “No.”

Categorical Imperative (2nd Formulation)

Act so that you treat both yourself ☐ and other people as ends in themselves ☐ and never only as a means to an end.

“This is usually an easier formulation to work ☐ with than the first formulation of the ☐ Categorical Imperative.” ☐

*...but it depends critically on the “only”.
IMO, it’s “unworkable”.*

Second formulation follows from the first

From Wikipedia (“Categorical Imperative”):

*The free will is the source of all rational action. But to treat it as a [means to an end] is to deny the possibility of freedom in general. Because the autonomous will is the one and only source of moral action, **it would contradict the first formulation to claim that a person is merely a means to some other end, rather than always an end in themselves.***

Case for Kantianism

- Rational
- Produces universal moral guidelines
- Treats all people as moral equals

Perfect and Imperfect Duties

- Perfect duty: duty obliged to fulfill without exception
 - Examples: Telling the truth
- Imperfect duties are still duties that can be inferred by the application of “pure reason”: i.e., the first or second formulations of the categorical imperative. But they’re:
 - Activities you couldn’t keep doing forever; never “done”
 - Cause for praise if you do it; not cause for blame if you don’t.
- So what *are* imperfect duties?
 - Examples: helping others; developing your talents.
- More generally:
 - Furthering the ends of ourselves and others.
 - Not following maxims that lead to undesirable states of affairs (as distinct from logical contradictions) when universalized
- Not everything we think of as “good” is even an imperfect duty (e.g., doing my chores)

Case Against Kantianism

- Sometimes no rule adequately characterizes an action
- Sometimes there is no way to resolve a conflict between rules
 - In a conflict between a perfect duty and an imperfect duty, perfect duty prevails
 - In a conflict between two perfect duties, no solution
 - Doesn't allow for tradeoffs between moral imperatives
- Kantianism allows no exceptions to perfect duties
- Second formulation of the categorical imperative is really easy to misuse (as, indeed, is Kantianism in general)

Breakout discussion: Companion bots

Companion robots are being developed to provide care and therapy to elderly patient



Use Kantianism to determine whether or not the use of these robot companions is ethical

Source: [Robots in aged care: a dystopian future?](https://www.ge.com/news/reports/a-robotic-companion-for-the-elderly)

Breakout Discussion: Mobile Surveillance

- “a special investigative team covertly infiltrates the mobile devices of Canadians. The tools, which have been used on at least 10 investigations between 2018 and 2020, give the police access to text messages, email, photos, videos, audio files, calendar entries and financial records. The software can also remotely turn on the camera and microphone of a suspect’s phone or laptop.”
- **Is it ethical for the Canadian government to use this system?** Consider from the perspective of Kantianism.



<https://bit.ly/3BJUvNX>

Reminders before next class