CPSC 430 Computers & Society

Class 2 !!

Dr. Firas Moosvi | 2024_S1

Slides courtesy of Dr. Kevin Leyton-Brown

Class Outline

1. Announcements (10 mins)

2. Essay Writing (40 mins)

3. Live Demo (10 mins)

4. Break (5 mins)

5. Course Topics Activity (70 mins)

6. Reminders before next class (5 mins)

Announcements

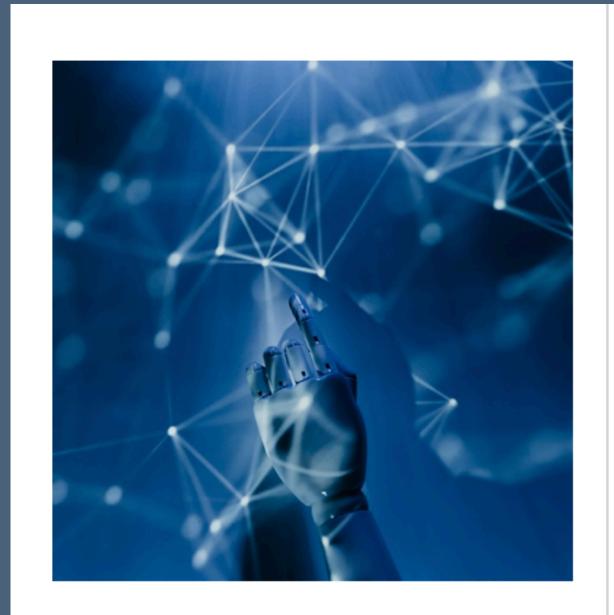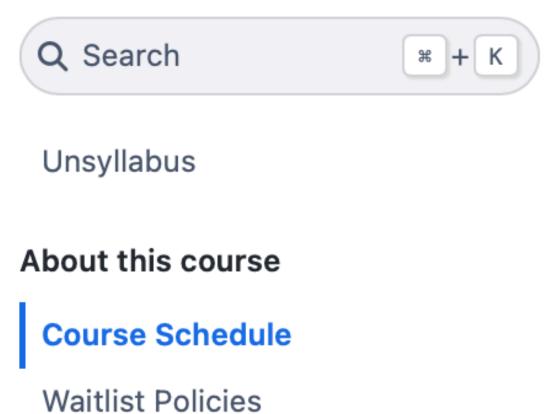# Calendar

Calendar of Dates and Windows

| | DAY | WEEK | MONTH | May 2024 | ‹ TODAY › |

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
E0 Window	E1 Window		E2 Window	· 18:00 E1	E0 Resubmission Window	
		· 18:00 E0		· 18:00 PR0		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E0	E3 Window			· 18:00 E3		
E1 Resubmission Window						
	· 18:00 PR1	E2 Resubmission Window				
	· 18:00 E2		E4 Window			
			· 18:00 PR2			
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
E4 Window	E5 Window			· 18:00 E5		
E3 Resubmission Window						

Schedule for the next 2 weeks

Course Schedule

This is the tentative plan for CPSC 430 this term. Things may change depending on many factors so this is subject to change.

Class	Date	Topic	Essay and Reading Due	Peer Review Due
1	May 13	Introduction and Course Overview	0	-
2	May 15	Writing, argumentation, ethical theories	-	0
3	May 17	Introduction to Ethics	1	-
		End of Week 1		
4	May 20	**Stat Holiday - No Class**	2	1
5	May 22	Networked Communications (NC)	-	2
6	May 24	NC, Intellectual Property	3	-
		End of Week 2		

Unsyllabus

About this course

Course Schedule

Waitlist Policies

Calibration Assignment

CBTF: 50-minute bookings

Hedayat and I had a long conversation about this...and here is the result of our discussions:

- The Essays are not meant to pressure you with a timer...

- But, CBTF bookings are done in 50-min slots so there is natural turnover once each slot is finished

- For now: you are welcome to stay a few extra minutes to wrap-up your essay if you need it

- If you think you might need more than 50 mins, **don't book the last session of the day**!

Essay Writing

Our focus today:
speaking, writing & argumentation

"In an Age of Information, what most professionals do is research, think, and make arguments.

(And part of the value of doing your own thinking and writing is that it makes you much better at evaluating the thinking and writing of others.)"

from "Writing in College,"
Williams and McEnerney,
University of Chicago Writing Program

Mostly, making good arguments is something you
learn by doing.

That's why we'll focus all term on
essays, review and class discussions.

However, this week we'll focus on some of the basics,
to help you get as much as possible
from the rest of the course.

Determining a thesis: generating ideas

- Easiest to generate ideas when you let them flow uncritically
  - freewriting
    - write without pausing, ignore grammar, set time limit
  - brainstorming
    - point form version of freewriting; again, don't be critical
  - clustering
    - organize ideas visually

- Consider more than one candidate topic to make sure you pick a good one

Finalizing your thesis

- easy to state in one sentence

- something you're passionate about and want to argue for

- In your essays:
  - make sure your thesis is narrow enough
  - make sure it's non-obvious
  - make sure it makes a claim rather than just stating a topic

- In an in-class discussion:
  - make sure you don't miss a better topic
  - make sure you pick something you're interested in and have arguments about

Outline your argument

- a simple point-form summary of what you want to say
  - this is the place to wrestle with how your argument will go, before you start getting caught up in sentences/details
- high level:
  - start by stating your thesis/main claim
  - two or three arguments in favor
  - some kind of conclusion; can be just a sentence or two
- Once high level is settled, work out arguments in favor in more detail
- Someone who read your outline wouldn't be surprised by anything in the essay

Anticipate & react to other arguments

- It doesn't weaken an argument to acknowledge that others will disagree
  - instead, it's better to anticipate arguments others will make
- In an essay, this is something you'll have to do explicitly
- In a class discussion, you actually hear other arguments
  - you'll need to adapt to what you hear
  - refute arguments made by others
  - claim that others' arguments actually support your point
  - add new evidence or arguments to reinforce your thesis

Live Demo

Course Topics Activity

Small Groups

Networked Communications	Intellectual Property	Information Privacy
"Any social network that employs moderators should be required to make it impossible to share posts flagged as false." **1: for; 10: against**	"The government should aggressively prosecute intellectual property infringement, particularly including peer-to-peer file sharing." **2: for; 11: against**	"It should be illegal for shopping malls to install cameras for tracking customer behavior." **3: for; 12: against**
Privacy and the Government	**Computer and Network Security**	**Computer Reliability**
"It should be illegal to sell a mobile phone that cannot be decrypted by the police if so ordered by a court." **4: for; 13: against**	"Canadians should be able to vote online in federal, provincial and municipal elections." **5: for; 14: against**	"Self-driving cars should be allowed to operate on public roads once they have been shown to be at least slightly safer than the average human driver." **6: for; 15: against**
Professional Ethics	**Work and Wealth**	**Artificial Intelligence**
"Computer scientists and data scientists should not aid in the development of autonomous weapon systems." **7: for; 16: against**	"The activity of a company's employees on their computers, such as what applications they have opened and for how long, is private and should never be tracked." **8: for; 17: against**	"Images generated by artificial intelligence systems (e.g., DALL-E 2) that require minimal human input should not receive copyright protection." **9: for; 18: against**

Rhetoric

- Make one point
  - Other arguments should be sub-points of this point
  - Your outline helps keep you honest here
- Be conversational; use simple, accessible language
- Be open to alternate points of view
- Be interesting!
- Pay attention to the verb tense you are using:
  - Past and present tense can sound more judgmental or accusatory
  - Future tense sounds more exhortative and less confrontational
- When speaking:
  - Be loud enough
  - Convey emotion and excitement
  - Refer to notes if you need to, but don't read
  - Pausing is better than "um"
  - Don't ramble; know when to stop!

Networked Communications

"Any social network that employs moderators
should be required to make it impossible
to share posts flagged as false."

Intellectual Property

"The government should aggressively prosecute intellectual property infringement,
particularly including peer-to-peer file sharing."

Information Privacy

"It should be illegal for shopping malls to install cameras for tracking customer behavior."

Privacy and the Government

"It should be illegal to sell a mobile phone
that cannot be decrypted by the police
if so ordered by a court."

Computer and Network Security

"Canadians should be able to
vote online in federal, provincial
and municipal elections."

Computer Reliability

"Self-driving cars should be allowed to operate on public roads once they have been shown to be at least slightly safer than the average human driver."

Professional Ethics

"Computer scientists and data scientists
should not aid in the development
of autonomous weapon systems."

Work and Wealth

"The activity of a company's employees on their computers, such as what applications they have opened and for how long, is private and should never be tracked."

Artificial Intelligence

"Contents generated by artificial intelligence systems (e.g., ChatGPT, DALL-E 2) that require minimal human input should not receive copyright protection."

Debrief

Reminders before next class