

City College of New York  
City University of New York

CS 59866: Ethical, Legal, and Policy Issues in Technology and Cybersecurity  
Tuesday 9:00-11:30 – Online Instruction (Fall 2021)

**Professor** Benjamin Dynkin  
Office Hours: After Class on Tuesdays  
[bdynkin1@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:bdynkin1@ccny.cuny.edu)

**Description** This course will focus on emerging ethical, legal, and policy issues in technology and security. Students will be asked to consider, research, and debate over a dozen different issues, around artificial intelligence, security, surveillance, warfare, and automation. Specific topics are presented below.

**Learning Outcomes** Student will not only gain new understanding of the emerging issues surrounding technology and security, but will also gain a wide array of skills in analytical, ethical, and philosophical thinking, as well as the ability to craft sophisticated policy arguments on technical issues. Students will also be given the opportunity to actually debate each other and give and receive peer critiques. Students will take an active role in shaping discussions.

**Course Materials** Each class will have readings assigned. Readings will include academic papers, contemporary articles, and other pedagogical resources. Videos may be used from time to time as well. Course materials will be posted on the Course page.

**Prerequisites** N/A

**Grading**

- **Final Paper (25%):** Students will be expected to complete a final paper on a topic of their choosing (which should be approved by Professors by Week 5). The paper should represent an original ethical or legal argument on an area of technology policy. Detailed requirements will be reviewed in class.
- **4 Position Papers (45%):** Students will be expected to prepare four short position paper (2-3 pages) throughout the semester on topics of their choosing. These papers should be submitted before the class when the topic is discussed.
- **Class Participation (30%):** Students are expected to be actively engaged in class discussions. This course will not simply be a lecture, but will feature substantial student discourse, conversation, and debate. We expect students to come prepared and ready to engage with the material.

## Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Course Introduction
2	Introduction to Ethical Thinking
3	The Trolley Car Problem
4	Autonomous Weaponry
5	Bias in Artificial Intelligence
6	Criminal Liability in Cyberspace
7	Hacking Back
8	Privacy and Security
9	The Surveillance State
10	Information Operations, Disinformation, and Censorship
11	Net Neutrality and the Ownership of Internet Infrastructure
12	Automation and Creative Destruction in Tech
13	Cyber Warfare

## Additional Notes

- City College's policy on Academic Honesty, which states, in part:  
*Within the school community one of the most serious offenses you can commit is to pass off someone else's intellectual work as your own. Therefore instances of Academic Dishonesty are taken very seriously. The Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) addresses faculty reports of student cheating, plagiarism, and any other form of Academic Dishonesty (for a full description see the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity). Students who dispute an allegation of academic dishonesty in a course will be assigned the temporary grade of "PEN." This grade will be changed after the student has an opportunity to be heard, and a final decision on the situation is made by the AIC or the Director of Academic Standards. Each incident is judged based on the seriousness of the offense. If it is deemed appropriate for the student to be suspended or expelled, the case is referred to the Student Affairs Disciplinary Committee.*  
Additional information and definitions can be found at <https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/academicaffairs/academic-integrityacademic-standards>
- Grades will not be given out via e-mail under any circumstances.
- If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out about any announcements or assignments you may have missed.
- Cell phones etc. should be turned off during class.
- In general, the time to let us know about any problems or issues concerning missing class, long term illnesses, job related problems, academic probation, etc. is before you have missed a week or two of classes.
- All paper assignments are to be done individually. Students handing in similar work will both receive a 0 and face disciplinary actions.
- Assignments should be turned in over email.