**PHIL 343: Final Paper**

Dr. Jonathan Tsou

Your final paper should be between 6-8 pages double-spaced (not including bibliography). In addition to readings covered in the class, you are highly encouraged to research and consult other published papers or books in writing your paper (see pp. 3-4 for some suggested readings). You may use any format for documenting your references/ citations, but you *must* document any sources that you use. Plagiarism of any kind will result in failure of the course. See the university’s guidelines on plagiarism at: <http://instr.iastate.libguides.com/content.php?pid=10314>

**Submission Instructions:** Submit an electronic copy of your paper on the Canvas course website by ***Thursday, May 9, 2018 (4pm)***.

**Possible Paper Topics:**

*Open Topics*

If you write on one of the open topics, make sure you choose an example that is narrow enough to be addressed in a 6-8 page paper, and speak to me before you write your paper. If using a story from the news, useful online resources include *The* *New York Times*, *CNN*, *Wired*, *The Register*, *TechNewsWorld*, *Slashdot*, *Hacker News*, etc. (also see the suggested sources listed on pp. 3-4).

1. Critically examine an internet related topic (e.g., wikileaks, social networking sites, cyber-terrorism, cyber-bullying, hacking, piracy, internet spam, slander on websites, anonymity on blogs) that relates to one or more of the computer ethical issues discussed in class (e.g., intellectual property rights, computer crime, privacy vs. safety, intellectual property rights, censorship). Use the topic—and ideally a story from current events—to frame a discussion on the pros and cons of the issue, and show how the topic highlights certain ethical issues. Articulate an argument for one side of the debate (e.g., wikileaks type websites should be censored, anonymity should be minimized online, concerns about cyber-terrorism outweigh privacy concerns).
2. Choose a story from current events (e.g., wikileaks, hybrid cars, genetically modified foods) or a particular kind of technology (e.g., social networking sites, android phones, video games) that relates to one of the general philosophy of technology issues discussed in the first part of the class (e.g., ways in which technology has shaped society, ways in which technology has changed the nature of human relationships, whether technology is value-laden or value-neutral). Use your example to articulate and defend a particular thesis (e.g., show how a particular technology has shaped culture or changed human relationships, illustrate the precise sense in which a particular technology is value-laden).

*Specific Topics*

1. Technologies that are designed to protect individual privacy (e.g., PGP, TOR) have made it increasingly difficult for authorities to enforce various crimes, ranging from theft to international terrorism. This problem raises questions concerning how the individual good of privacy should be balanced against the public good of safety in the electronic frontier. Should the government have *any* power to regulate privacy technologies to protect the public? Do individuals have a right to own and use technologies (e.g., high level encryption, TOR) that can virtually guarantee their privacy? Or do governments have a right to control what kinds of technology its citizens’ use and export to countries outside its borders? In addressing these questions, discuss the ethical principle that informs your argument, and comment on the ‘clipper chip’ proposal discussed in the Barlow and Denning readings, or another example from current events.
2. The internet has greatly expanded the potential for individuals to exercise their freedom of speech (e.g., on webpages or blogs), which has raised questions about how to regulate harmful and/ or offensive forms of speech (e.g., pornography, hate-speech, instructions on how to build bombs) posted on the internet. Discuss some ways in which the internet has created *special* problems for censoring materials posted on the internet. What is the most feasible way of regulating online content? Who should bear the brunt of responsibility for materials posted online (e.g., system operators, users)? Articulate your argument with reference to an example from current events, and indicate the mode(s) of regulation that you find most promising for regulating online content (see Richard Spinello, ch. 1).

**Secondary Sources for Final Papers**

*Any of the articles in the High Noon anthology will be useful resources for your papers, but below are some more resources you may wish to consult in for your paper. All books listed below can be found in the ISU library.*

Cyber-Libertarianism

* Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) website: <http://www.eff.org/>
* Free Software Foundation (FSF) website: <http://www.fsf.org/>
* Richard Stallman’s website: <http://www.stallman.org/>
* John Perry Barlow papers: <https://projects.eff.org/~barlow/barlow/library.html>

Intellectual Property Rights

* Moore, Adam, “Intellectual Property,” entry in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*:

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/intellectual-property/>

* Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) page on Intellectual Property:

<http://www.eff.org/issues/intellectual-property>

Computer Crime

* US Department of Justice, Cybercrime and Intellectual Property page (including press releases): <http://www.cybercrime.gov/>
* Computer Crime research center: <http://www.crime-research.org/>
* High Tech Crime Investigation Association (HTCIA) site: <http://www.htcia.org/>

Privacy vs. Public Safety on the Internet

* DeCew, Judith, “Privacy,” entry in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/privacy/>
* Publications by Dorothy Denning on privacy and public safety: <http://www.cs.georgetown.edu/~denning/publications.html>

Freedom of Speech and Censorship on the Internet

* van Mill, David, “Freedom of Speech,” entry in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/freedom-speech/>
* Bibilography compiled by Marian Dworaczek: <http://library2.usask.ca/~dworacze/CENS.HTM>
* UCLA Cyberspace Law Bibliography: <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/iclp/freespch.htm>

Anthologies of Readings

* Spinello, Richard A. & Tavani, Herman (eds.) (2001). *Readings in Cyberethics*. Boston, MA: Jones and Bartlett.
* Baird, Robert M., Ramsower, Reagan, & Rosenbaum, Stuart E. (eds.) (2000). *Cyberethics: Social & Moral Issues in the Computer Age*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus.

General Computer Ethics Books

* Tavani, Herman T. (2004). *Ethics and Technology: Ethical Issues in Age of Information and Communication Technology*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
* Baase, Sara (2003). *A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computers and the Internet*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
* Spinello, Richard A. (2002). *Regulating Cyberspace: The Policies and Technologies of Control*. Westport, CT: Quorum.
* Spinello, Richard A. (2000). *Cyberethics: Morality and Law in Cyberspace*. Boston, MA: Jones and Bartlett.
* Johnson, Deborah G. (1985). *Computer Ethics*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.