Winter 2020   Instructor: Professor Michael Anderson
W 1l:30-1:30 UCC 37   Office: WIRB 7174
Tutorials F 11:30-12:30 AHB 1B04, 1B08, 2B02   Email: mande54@uwo.ca
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Office hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:30, Wednesday 2:00-3:30, and by appointment

DESCRIPTION
Will robots take all our jobs? Will humans become cyborgs? As we rely more and more on machines and other new technologies, they are changing how we interact with the world and one another. In this course we will consider the impact of artificial intelligence on our current lives, and on our future. It has been said that "Philosophy will be the key that unlocks artificial intelligence"—presumably for the better. On the other hand, the Oxford philosopher Nick Bostrom has warned that advances in superintelligence may soon make humans obsolete. Who should we believe? This course will address these and other issues by first considering some traditional questions in philosophy of mind—e.g., Can a robot think? What is the Turing Test? Can machines ever be conscious?— before turning to a consideration of some of the ethical and social implications of this new technology.

TEXTS
Cunningham, J., Hilliaer, S. & O'Reardon, D. eds. (2014). *Introducing Philosophy: Questions and Readings*. Toronto: Edmund Montgomery Publications.

Boden, M. (2016). *AI: Its Nature and Future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Reserve readings as assigned.

OBJECTIVES
The goal of this course is to familiarize students with some of the philosophical challenges posed by advances in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). By the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of the nature and scope of AI and the metaphysical, ethical and social implications of various forms and applications of AI. Students will also be in a position to take more advanced courses in a number of different areas of philosophy, including but not limited to, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Technology, Philosophy of Mind, and Ethics.

REQUIREMENTS
• Regular Attendance (you will lose 1% of the final grade for every Tutorial missed without accommodation)
• Class participation
• 4 Online quizzes (5% each)
• 2 short papers (15% paper 1; 25% paper 2)

• Midterm exam (15%); Final exam (25%)

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES
The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at
http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION
Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at
http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

SELF- REPORTED ABSENCE FORM
Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.
The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:
http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_322

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT
The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

LATE WORK
Work turned in late without academic accommodation will have 5% of the final score deducted for each day it is late. Missed tests/quizzes without academic accommodation will receive a zero.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com http://www.turnitin.com.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services http://www.registrar.uwo.ca
Student Support Services https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login Services provided by the USC http://westernusc.ca/services/
Student Development Centre http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change with sufficient notice)

Jan 8: Course Introduction, Basic Philosophy of AI
    Readings: Boden Ch 1

Jan 15: Basic History of AI
    Readings: Introducing Philosophy (IP) Ch 1 (pp. 3-18); Boden Ch 2; Bostrom "When machines outsmart humans" https://nickbostrom.com/2050/outsmart.html

First Tutorial: Philosophy Skills 1
    Readings: Introducing Philosophy (IP) pp. 183-185

Jan 22: Basic Metaphysics
    Readings: IP Ch 2 (pp. 19-32); pp. 35-48
    Before Class: Take online quiz 1

Second Tutorial
    Readings: IP Ch 6 (pp. 128-137); pp. 186-191

Jan 29: Theory of Computation
　　　　Readings: Boden Ch 4; Hillis *The Pattern on the Stone* pp. vii-38.
　　　　Before Class: Take online quiz 2

Third Tutorial
　　　　Readings: None; review theory of computation

Feb 5: Basic Epistemology
　　　　Readings: IP Ch 7-8 (pp. 148-182)
　　　　Before Class: Take online quiz 3

Fourth Tutorial
　　　　Readings: Turing, "Computing machinery and intelligence" sections 1, 2 & 6

Feb 12: Basic Ethics
　　　　Readings: IP Ch. 10-11 (pp. 195-212; 239-254; 283-295 only)
　　　　Before Class: Take online quiz 4

Fifth Tutorial: Philosophy Skills 2
　　　　Readings: IP pp. 296-325

Feb 19: Reading Week
　　　　Readings: None

Feb 21: Reading Week
　　　　Readings: None

Feb 26: MID-TERM EXAM
　　　　Readings: None

Sixth Tutorial: Philosophy Skills 3**: writing your first paper!**
　　　　Readings: None

Mar 4: Introduction to Theories of Justice
　　　　Readings: IP Ch 14 (pp. 390-421)
　　　　FIRST PAPER DUE

Seventh Tutorial: Philosophy Skills 4
　　　　Readings: IP pp. 422-428

Mar 11: AI and the Law

      Readings: Boden Ch 6; Schwitzgebel & Garza "Designing AI with rights, consciousness, self-respect and freedom" http://www.faculty.ucr.edu/~eschwitz/SchwitzPapers/AIRights2-180604.pdf

Eighth Tutorial

      Readings: Rini "Raising good robots" https://aeon.co/essays/creating-robots-capable-of-moral-reasoning-is-like-parenting

Mar 18: AI and Labour

      Readings: Boden Ch 7; Danaher "Will life be worth living in a world without work? Technological unemployment and the meaning of life"

Mar 21: Ninth Tutorial

      Readings: Walsh, "Will robots bring about the end of work?"
https://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2017/oct/01/will-robots-bring-about-the-end-of-work

Mar 25: AI and Equality

      Readings: Burkell, "The Challenges of Algorithmic Bias"; Pasquale, *The Black Box Society* ch 2.

Mar 28: Tenth Tutorial

      Readings: "Ontario Basic Income Pilot" https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-basic-income-pilot
      Harris, "How technology hijacks people's minds" http://www.tristanharris.com/essays/

Apr 1: The Future of AI

      Readings: Dennett "The practical requirements for making a conscious robot"

      FINAL PAPER DUE

CLASSES END APR 3 – NO ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DAY