

PHIL 3440: Computers and Philosophy

Fall 2010 MWF 3:30 - 4:20pm

Instructor:

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General Remarks:

While I will do some lecturing, my intention is for us to spend time discussing—as a group—the arguments presented in the course materials, and for you to offer arguments of your own. It is therefore important that you all feel free to make arguments, even controversial ones. Some of the best discussion in philosophy is generated by people defending controversial views—even ones that they do not personally hold. So, not only should you feel comfortable defending viewpoints that may not be popular, but I encourage all of you to consider how you might defend viewpoints that are not your own. Along these lines, you should always be mindful of the fact that the positions your classmates take do not necessarily represent what they actually believe.

Course Materials:

Information Technology and Moral Philosophy. Edited by Jeroen van den Hoven and John Weckert. Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Further materials provided on Blackboard.

Course Structure:

Each student will be responsible for a day of class. Students will be assigned a topic and will select course materials to be used on a day where that topic is the focus. I will supplement these student days with material of my own. There will be quizzes at appropriate intervals (usually) between topics. There will also be a final; the form of which is to be determined.

Grading:

Your grade will be out of a total of 100 points:

- 50 points for quizzes
- 25 points for student days
- 25 points for the final
- Class participation considered in borderline cases

Academic Dishonesty:

It is my hope that this section of the syllabus is merely a formality. Please do not plagiarize. In all but the most extremely exceptional cases, students found presenting others' work as their own will fail this course. The school's official policies on the matter can be found here: http://www.bgsu.edu/catalog/Acad_policies/Acad_policies2.html.