GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY/GTL
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs/Ivan Allen College

INTA 2030: Ethics in International Affairs
(*Politics and Ethics in the Global Digital Era)

Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Birchfield

Office: Room 227
Office Hours: Mondays 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
and by appointment
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Course Description

This course covers issues of moral values and ethical reasoning in international relations and global society. It examines the significance of international political morality in shaping individual and collective conduct of foreign relations and investigates the ethical nature of the rules, structures, and informal patterns of the international system. As the world is becoming increasingly interconnected through information and communication technologies and developments in artificial intelligence, robotics and other technologies are shaping human activities from the most basic sphere of labor to the most extreme case of warfare, new models of ethical decision-making seem imperative. Is it fair for machines to replace humans and individuals lose their basic livelihoods? Where do we place guilt if drones kill innocent civilians? The course also considers the ethical implications of emerging technologies that render borders obsolete and challenge notions of national sovereignty and government control. How do Big Data and the Internet of Things dislodge our traditional notions of freedom, privacy, and human rights? How do we adjudicate cultural norms, societal choice and global governance in an increasingly complex, multipolar world? While the course emphasizes theoretical concepts and philosophical approaches, its main goal is to encourage ethical analysis by applying the concepts to specific global issues and problems.
*This is a pilot course that is subject to evolve during the early phase of the semester as we adapt to the interests and backgrounds of the students as well as stay attuned to developments at the intersection of science and technology and world politics. Fall 2019 is the first time the course is offered at GTL and the course design is partially motivated by an attempt to merge CS 4001 and INTA 2030. The objectives, requirements and course policies will, however, remain the same. The course meets the social science elective and ethics requirements at Georgia Tech as well as counts towards the International Plan.

Learning Outcomes

Students:
1. should demonstrate familiarity with select traditions of ethics in world politics and different modes of normative reasoning and argumentation
2. should be able to analyze prominent ethical issues in international relations and global society
3. should become more aware of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world.
4. should be able to apply different traditions and cultural systems of ethics in international affairs when analyzing concrete cases, particularly those cases where technology is at the core of new ethical dilemmas.

Recommended Textbooks and Required Readings

International Ethics (4th ed.), by Mark Amstutz
Ethics for the Information Age (7th ed**.**), by Michael Quinn

Segments from the following:
- *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy,* by Cathy O'Neil
- *Of Privacy and Power: The Transatlantic Struggle over Freedom and Security* by Henry Farrell and Abraham L. Newman

*Most readings will be available on Canvas and in the GTL library

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Class Participation – **30%** of course grade
   Students are **required** to attend lectures and complete all assigned readings **before** the class lecture. Doing the assigned reading prior to each class is essential since class time will regularly feature discussions, debate and critical analysis of the various assigned texts. Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions on the subjects addressed in the readings and lectures. Lectures during the course may not cover all the readings. You are responsible for the information contained in the reading, whether it is covered or not in lectures, as well as for the information in the lectures. You should also follow events in international affairs by reading respectable news publications such as *BBC, The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Economist*.

2. Quizzes and Homework – **10%** of course grade.
   There will be occasional, unannounced quizzes on the readings and/or material provided during the lecture. **There will be no make up quizzes**. If you miss a

quiz and have an approved excuse or you took the quiz but no grade has been posted, you must make that known to the **instructor within a week of the date of the quiz.** If you fail to do so, you will not be given credit for an excused absence. If you have an excused absence, your overall quiz grade will be the average of the quizzes you took. Homework will consist of very short individual response papers or short assignments.

3. Group Project/Research paper--**40%** of course grade
   In teams, students will chose a topic that requires ethical decision making within the international system or global community. The project will be divided into three distinct parts. First, the teams must produce a White Paper that provides an overview of the nature of the emerging technology, its broad stages of scientific development and a survey of how it is being assessed and debated in different countries and in various international fora, (e.g. The United Nations, the International Labor Organization, The World Economic Forum, the G20, the OECD, the EU, etc.). The second part should explore the pertinent societal implications and ethical dilemmas brought forth by the particular technological development being examined and the final part must set forth a specific set of recommendations and guidelines to regulate and govern that particular technology or other socio-economic phenomenon under investigation. Contingent on class size and group dynamics, specific tasks will be assigned for both the oral presentation in class as well as the written research paper.

4. Final Exam/Essay—**20%** of course grade
   A final take-home essay prompt will be given during the last week of the semester asking students to reflect on the challenges of technological transformations confronting global society and the set of ethical principles required to achieve a just and humane world in the 21st century while also safeguarding open, free societies where innovation can flourish.

Grading and Assessment

A = 89.5-100; B = 79.5-89.4; C = 69.5-79.4; D = 59.5-69.5; F = below 59.5

A: Outstanding and original work; well-argued, well-organized, without significant error or omission.

B: Very fine work, reasonably argued, clearly organized, with only slight error or omission; clearly well above the average.

C: Solid work of a quite satisfactory nature; clear evidence of engagement and comprehension, but with some organizational, factual, or interpretive errors/omissions.

D: Passing, but only marginally acceptable work with clear deficiencies of length, fact, organization, or interpretation; incomplete work.

F: Unacceptable work submitted with such significant deficiencies that no credit can be awarded.

- o Participation   30%
- o Quizzes and HW   10%
- o Group Project   40%
- o Final Exam/essay   20%

Academic Honesty:
All work must be entirely your own and must be produced in accordance with the Georgia Tech Honor code. Please read the Academic Honor Code carefully (http//www.honor.gatech.edu/honorcode.html) and familiarize yourself with your rights and responsibilities under Institute regulations. Any suspected cases of cheating on the exams or any other form of academic dishonesty will be turned over immediately to the Office of Student Integrity for investigation. If you have any further queries on this topic, please visit the website of the Dean of Students:
www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/ for an articulation of some basic expectations that you can have of us and that we have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, we encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

For students with disabilities, please consult the GT website to be aware of the services available to you as well as GT's policies and procedures.
http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/content/15/policies-procedures#Student%20Responsibilities
ADAPTS contact information: http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Date	Topics and Readings
Aug 22	**Course Introduction**
Aug 27	**Ethical Questions and Moral Values in International Affairs** ➢ Amstutz, Introduction

Aug 29	**Morality and Foreign Policy** ➤ Amstutz, Ch 1
Aug 31	**Ethics and Global Society** ➤ Amstutz, Ch 2
Sep 3 & 5	**Ethics and Global Society Continued** ➤ Amstutz, Ch 2 Debate communitarianism vs. cosmopolitanism
Sep 10 & 12	**The Role of Ethical Traditions** ➤ Amstutz, Ch. 3 Theory application in-class activity
Sep 17 & 19	**Strategies of Ethical Decision Making** ➤ Amstutz, Ch 4
Sep 24	**In class viewing and/or listening to student selected Video clips/Ted Talks /Podcasts**
Sep 26	**The Ethics of War, Political Reconciliation and International Human Rights** ➤ Amstutz, Ch 5 & 6 (Only partial segments of each chapter)
Oct 1 & 3	**The Ethics of International Economic Relations** Topics: Globalization, Financial Crises, Debt Relief, Economic Sanctions ***Readings posted on Canvas** **Begin reading *Weapons of Math Destruction***
Oct 8 & 10	**In class viewing and discussion of "The Limits of Ethical A.I." Joichi Ito, Director MIT Media Lab (**http://environment.harvard.edu/science-democracy-limits-ethical-ai-joichi-ito **The European Approach/Background Reading:** **http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-connected-digital-single-market/file-artificial-intelligence-for-europe** **RESEARCH TOPICS SELECTED and TEAMS FORMED**
Oct 15	**Technology, Digitalization and Professional Ethics** In what ways does computer technology impact society? Topics: privacy, intellectual property, and freedom of speech *Selected Readings from *Ethics for the Information Age* by Michael Quinn
Oct 17	**What special responsibilities do scientists, technologists and computing professionals have?** Software Engineering Code of Ethics and ACM Code of Ethics Discussion and Debate: How can we apply these in our daily practice?

	*Engineering Grand Challenges background reading material on Canvas * https://thebulletin.org/2019/08/why-facebook-youtube-and-twitter-are-bad-for-the-climate/
Oct 22 & 24	*Visual and statistical thinking: displays of evidence for decision making* Selected Reading from Tufte posted on Canvas
Oct 29 & 31	**NO CLASS/FALL BREAK**
Nov 5 & 7	**Virtue Ethics and Stakeholder Analysis** Possible Topics: Migration and Refugee Crisis in Europe, immigration debates in the United States; China's Belt and Road Initiative; Apartheid in South Africa; Genocides in Rwanda and former Yugoslavia (Balkan wars) Film and Readings TBD; excerpts from Gilligan's "In a different voice"
Nov 12 &14	**White Papers Due/Class Discussions and individual meetings with Professor** **Reading: *Of Privacy and Power***
Nov 19 & 21	**Ethics at the intersection of science, technology and international affairs in the Global Digital Era** **CASE STUDIES and DEBATES** Possible Topics: Surveillance Technologies; Gender and Racial Bias problems with facial recognition technologies; Intellectual Property and Software as Intellectual Property; Huawei and 5 G ???
Nov 26 & 28	Class presentations of final projects
Dec 3	**LAST DAY OF CLASS**
TBA	**Final take-home Exam/Essay due via email to professor**