Course Syllabus

Jump to Today   ✎ **Edit**

Got a Question?

- Please start by reading the entire *Syllabus* (this page) and checking the course *Modules*: you may find that your question is already answered!
- If you have not found an answer, and your question is of general interest (the answer is likely to be useful to other students), please start a new topic in the course ***Discussions***: this way, we can answer once for everyone.
- However, if your question is personal (the answer is useful only to you) please send email to **csc197-2021-09@cs.toronto.edu** (mailto:csc197-2021-09@cs.toronto.edu) .
- We will try to answer within two business days. In other words, don't worry if you don't get an answer right away, but don't hesitate to reach out if it's been more than two days (NOT counting weekends and holidays).

Technology has brought dramatic changes to how we communicate with each other, discover information, and buy goods. In addition to personal data we choose to share, we generate massive amounts of data surplus (sometimes called "data exhaust") in the patterns of behaviour we follow as we type, click, look, and interact with various platforms. Individually and collectively, we are affected by what data is being collected, who is collecting and accessing it, and how it is being used. We'll look at why we should care about privacy, how personal data can be collected and tracked, which factors may influence our own decisions, how much to share our data, and what political and legal tools are used to protect — or subvert — individual privacy.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify and describe what kinds of personal data can be collected, stored, analyzed, shared, and hacked.
- Understand and explain methods that can be used to safeguard and violate individual privacy.
- Analyze and critique corporate, legal, and socio-cultural policies and attitudes on digital privacy and security.
- Conduct independent research on course topics using a wide variety of resources and media, including: news and scholarly articles, podcasts, and videos.
- Communicate with peers and a general audience about course topics, using a variety of forms.

Logistics

As you are aware from the A&S timetable, this course is offered **in person**. This means that your presence on campus is expected for every class. **However**, each lecture (*for the entire term*) will also be available

synchronously on Zoom, so that you can participate in the discussions online, in case you are unable (or unwilling) to join in person.

- **Class time:** Fridays 12:10–14:00
- **Location:** Room IN 312, and synchronously on Zoom:
  - Meeting ID: 819 8863 2392
  - Passcode: 197197
  - Link: **https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/81988632392** **(https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/81988632392)**
  - **Remember to log in to your U of T Zoom account** to be able to join the class!
- **Instructor:** François Pitt <`csc197-2021-09@cs.toronto.edu` **(mailto:csc197-2021-09@cs.toronto.edu)** >
- **Teaching Assistant**: Caitlin Harrigan
- **Office Hours**: right after class (Fridays 14:10–15:00, in room IN 312, or using the same Zoom link as for the lecture)

See the "**technical requirements**" below for more details — including how to activate your free U of T Zoom account.

What's a First-Year Foundation (FYF) Seminar?

CSC197H1 is an Arts & Science *First-Year Foundation Seminar*, designed to give you a smaller, more intimate class experience in your first year at U of T. Here are some quick highlights of the main goals of these seminars, including how they might be different from your other courses this year:

- Create an academic community to foster a sense of belonging among students, and to give you opportunities to engage meaningfully with a faculty member in a small course setting.
- Develop critical thinking skills, such as the ability to understand issues, problems, and methods from multiple perspectives.
- Express ideas and logical arguments through class discussions and in your writing.

To find out more about Arts & Science First-Year Foundation Seminars, check out this video:

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                                                             │
│     First-Year Foundations at U of T: Seminars              │
│                                                             │
│                                                             │
│                                                             │
│                        ▶                                    │
│                                                             │
│                                                             │
│                                                             │
│                                                             │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

How to succeed in this course

This course will feel different from your other courses this year. Here are some tips and strategies we've collected to help you get the most learning — and enjoyment!

1. **Commit to participating in class discussions and activities.** One of the benefits of this seminar is that you'll have plenty of opportunities to actively engage with the material during class time, rather than simply being lectured at. In a smaller setting, it's easier to become comfortable sharing your thoughts and questions with your classmates, and these efforts will pay off in helping you learn and retain that learning.

2. **Do the pre-class preparation.** Coming prepared helps make the most of what we do in class, and will make sure you feel confident about participating in class.

3. **Share your own experiences and perspectives**. Each one of you brings a unique set of experiences and perspectives to this seminar, and our learning community is stronger for having all of you together. Don't be afraid to share your own thoughts, ideas, and interest, even when you disagree with a fellow classmate or your instructor. We'll be discussing challenging and complex issues in this course, and certainly do not expect uniform agreement.

4. **Treat your classmates, instructor, and yourself with respect**. For a seminar to succeed, every participant needs to feel comfortable and respected enough to share their ideas and insights with others. To make this happen, we all need to work together to treat each other with respect: listening when others

are speaking, inviting others to contribute, and taking seriously the ideas of others. It's perfectly normal to disagree with each other, but when this does happen, we'll all need to remember to keep our discussions and interactions respectful.

5. **Come talk to your instructor — and your TA! — we want you to succeed!** Often first-year students feel too intimidated or shy to approach their instructors, or even their TAs, and this feeling is compounded when you're one of hundreds sitting in a large lecture hall. Because this course is smaller, we'll naturally have more time to get to know each other, and we really do care about your learning — François even filled out **this form** ⬇ **(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938/files/15269559 /download?download_frd=1)** in an effort to seem more approachable! ☺ If at any point in the term you'd like to chat, ask questions about the course or about anything else, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Contacting your instructor and/or TA

François will hold office hours every Friday right after class; this is a great opportunity to continue class discussions, ask follow-up questions, or chat about whatever is on your mind. Caitlin will hold office hours a few times during the term, to provide additional feedback on your assignments or guidance on your writing — the exact dates and times will be announced here once they are decided.

If you'd like to get in touch with your instructor during the week, please send email to `csc197-2021-09@cs.toronto.edu` **(mailto:csc197-2021-09@cs.toronto.edu)** from your U of T email address, with "CSC197" in the subject line. This might be used to discuss personal matters not appropriate for office hours, e.g., to request an extension on a piece of course work because of extenuating circumstances (so you can supply enough details privately), or to request an individual appointment.

Accommodations and Accessibility Services

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs.

For more information on services and resources available to students, please see **https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/** **(https://studentlife.utoronto.ca /department/accessibility-services/)** .

Academic integrity

[*The following is adapted from the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation.*]

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, since it establish ground rules for sharing ideas. We want a degree from the University of Toronto to be a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's **Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm)** outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but

are not limited to:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

We investigate possible cases of academic offences following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see **http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/** **(http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/)**).

*Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (**https://uoft.me/pdt-faq** **(https://uoft.me/pdt-faq)**).*

If you wish to opt-out of using the University's plagiarism detection tool, please contact the instructor directly to make arrangements. This should be done well in advance of submitting your work!

Readings

There is no textbook for this course, since we provide links to materials for each week, as well as additional reference material. You can find links to the weekly readings, as well as additional textbooks that you might find interesting, under the **Library Resources** for the course (the link is also in the navigation bar on the left).

Technical requirements

To participate in this course on Zoom…

- You require reliable access to a **full computer** (*not just a smartphone*) on which you can browse web pages, read lecture slides, and type and submit assignments. (*Actually, this first requirement applies to everyone, even if you attend lectures in person.*)
- This computer must have a **microphone**, optionally a webcam, as well as a **reliable, high-speed internet connection** for attending the lectures and office hours online.
- You need to be able to use **Quercus** and **Zoom**.
- You need to be available **during the scheduled class times**. This is particularly important to benefit from the discussions in breakout rooms, which cannot be recorded.
- You need access to a quiet space with as few distractions as possible. We realize this may be difficult for some, but please do your best: you know how easy it is to get distracted even during an on-campus lecture; imagine how much easier it is if you are surrounded by distractions. At the very least, make sure

to turn off all notifications and non-essential software: give yourself a chance to be fully engaged with the material for the best learning experience.

Zoom accounts

Every student at the university has access to a free UofT Zoom account. Simply log on to **utoronto.zoom.us (https://utoronto.zoom.us/)** with your UTORid and password to activate your free account. You must do this **before** you try to join the class!

Video Recording and Sharing

Lectures will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Your participation in the lecture may be included in these recordings if you ask a question by unmuting yourself; however, the contents of the chat will NOT be included in the recordings.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about recording and use of videos in which you may appear please contact course staff at the course email address (`csc197-2021-09@cs.toronto.edu` **(mailto:csc197-2021-09@cs.toronto.edu)**).

Remember that CSC197H1 is a **seminar** course: your learning experience will be primarily based on discussion, and this requires active participation. In other words, lecture recordings are a **very poor substitute** for joining the class in person, or synchronously on Zoom.

You may have some questions about how to use Zoom appropriately. Here are some insights into what is okay and not okay in CSC197H1 (borrowed from Prof. Mario Badr, who wrote these for CSC108H1 in Fall 2020).

What's OK?

- It's OK to participate in class meetings however and wherever is comfortable to you. Yes, that includes participating from bed in your pajamas, if that works for you!
- It's OK to feel some nervousness and/or discomfort about participating in an online class.
- It's OK to keep your audio and video off some or all of the time. However, remember that this class is heavily discussion-based: to get the most out of it, you have to be willing to engage in the discussion! We think that using audio in small group discussions such as breakout groups or office hours can be helpful and enhance your learning, but you are welcome to participate by text chat only if you prefer.
- It's OK to screenshot or take photos of course content when shared in class meetings or office hours, *for your own personal academic use only*. (Remember that full recordings of each lecture will be available, so you should not need to do this.)
- It's OK to set your display name in Zoom to just your first name or your preferred name.
- It's OK to use (classroom appropriate!) virtual backgrounds if you want to.

What's not OK?

- It's **not** OK to disrupt the class and other students' learning by showing inappropriate or distracting things in your video or profile picture, by turning on audio when others are trying to speak and listen, or by posting disruptive things in the chat.
- It's **not** OK to screenshot or record parts of class meetings or office hours for *anything* other than personal academic use.
- It's **not** OK to share images or video from class meetings or office hours on social media.
- It's **not** OK to capture or record any personal information about your classmates or course staff without their consent.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Thu Sep 16, 2021	📝 **Week 2 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646892)**	due by 5pm
Thu Sep 23, 2021	📝 **Week 3 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646893)**	due by 5pm
Tue Sep 28, 2021	📝 **Journal #1 (https://q.utoronto.ca /courses/233938/assignments/646887)**	due by 5pm
Thu Sep 30, 2021	📝 **Week 4 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646894)**	due by 5pm
Thu Oct 7, 2021	📝 **Week 5 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646895)**	due by 5pm
Tue Oct 12, 2021	📝 **Journal #2 (https://q.utoronto.ca /courses/233938/assignments/646888)**	due by 5pm
Thu Oct 14, 2021	📝 **Week 6 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646896)**	due by 5pm
Thu Oct 21, 2021	📝 **Week 7 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646897)**	due by 5pm

Date	Details	Due
Tue Oct 26, 2021	📝 **Explainer Video (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646884)**	due by 5pm
Thu Oct 28, 2021	📝 **Week 8 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646898)**	due by 5pm
Tue Nov 2, 2021	📝 **Journal #3 (https://q.utoronto.ca /courses/233938/assignments/646889)**	due by 5pm
Thu Nov 4, 2021	📝 **Week 9 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/647207)**	due by 5pm
Thu Nov 18, 2021	📝 **Week 10 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646890)**	due by 5pm
Tue Nov 23, 2021	📝 **Final Paper Preparation and Research (https://q.utoronto.ca /courses/233938/assignments/646885)**	due by 5pm
Thu Nov 25, 2021	📝 **Week 11 preparation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646891)**	due by 5pm
Tue Dec 7, 2021	📝 **Final Paper Submission (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/233938 /assignments/646886)**	due by 5pm