

CSC300H1 S

Computers and Society

Winter 2024 Syllabus

Course Meetings

CSC300H1 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101	Tuesday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	In Person: KP 108
LEC5101	Tuesday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	In Person: MP 102

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Course Contacts

Instructor: Robert Soden

Email: robert.soden@utoronto.ca

Office Hours and Location: Appointment Only

Course Overview

This course offers a concise introduction to ethics in computing, distilled from the ethical and social discussions carried on by today's academic and popular commentators. This course covers a wide range of topics within this area including the philosophical framework for analyzing computer ethics; the impact of computer technology on security, privacy and intellectual property, digital divide, and gender and racial discrimination; the ethical tensions with Artificial Intelligence around future of work and humanity, the emerging role of online social media over voice, inclusion, and democracy; and the environmental consequences of computing.

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Course Learning Outcomes

Prerequisites: 0.5 credit in CSC

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: CSC300H5, CSCD03H3. NOTE: Students not enrolled in the Computer Science Major or Specialist program at A&S, UTM, or UTSC, or the Data Science Specialist at A&S, are limited to a maximum of 1.5 credits in 300-/400-level CSC/ECE courses.

Recommended Preparation: None

Credit Value: 0.5

Course Materials

Recommended Texts (Optional)

- [Code 2.0](#), by Lawrence Lessig [[Download](#)]
- The Age of Surveillance Capitalism, Shoshana Zuboff
- Algorithms of Oppression, Safiya Noble

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Reading Responses	60%		2024-01-29,2024-02-26,2024-03-18,2024-04-08
Tutorial Participation	18%		No Specific Date
Final Assessment	22%		2024-04-15

Late Assessment Submissions Policy

Late submissions will be graded according to the following rules • 20% reduction if submitted within 24 hours after the deadline. • 50% reduction if submitted within 24-48 hours after the deadline. • No submission after 48 hours after the deadline will be accepted. However, if a student misses a deadline for an unavoidable reason, physical emergency, or other unexpected incidents of significant magnitude, they can submit their assignment at a later date. In such cases, you have to send an email to TA Reyna Wu (reyna.wu@mail.utoronto.ca) with necessary documents and explanations. Please note that there is no deadline for publishing the grades of late submissions. This depends on the availability of the teaching team.

Policies & Statements

Late/Missed Assignments

This item is listed here to remind you to include your late/missed assignment policy; if you have late penalties, you are required to publish them in your syllabus. Please see the [A&S Academic Handbook \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook) sections on missed term work (Section 4.7), late term work and extensions (section 4.8), and missed term tests (Section 5.3) for more information.

Plagiarism Detection Tool

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>).