

## **PHIL 3135 Syllabus**

Philosophy of Technology Phil 3135, All Sections, 3 Credits

Fall 2026

### **Instructor Information**

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**Instructor: Abigail Mills**

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### **General Course Information**

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#### **Description**

The course considers philosophical accounts of how technologies can and should shape our understandings of politics, ethics, and daily life. We will use case studies to better understand real problems scientists, engineers, and citizens face when dealing with technologies. Finally, we will host a consensus conference to explore one method of regulating technology in democratic societies.

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

1. Understand and explain the major literature, concepts, and schools of thought in major fields of academic philosophy.
2. Apply philosophical concepts in their daily lives.
3. Participate in debates and controversies that can be understood using course concepts.
4. Critique and support arguments in their own words.

#### **Required Course Materials**

We will read the following texts:

- *Technology Ethics*, 2023, Routledge.
- *Reality+*, David Chalmers, 2022, Norton.

We will read the following article, which will be made available on Canvas or through the library:

- Winner, *Do Artifacts Have Politics?*, Daedalus, 1980

## **Grading Policy:**

You will earn letter grades as follows:

- A 90+%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F Below 60%

You will earn points according to the following distribution:

- Case Studies 20%
- Participation 20%
- Consensus Conference 20%
- Tests (2) 40%

## **Description of Graded Components**

**Case Studies:** Approximately 5 case studies related to course concepts will be available in Canvas. Five class periods will be devoted to activities related to each case study. Students will be graded on the quality of their participation in these activities. There may be written components during class.

**Participation:** On-time attendance and professional contributions to class discussions will be graded throughout the semester.

**Consensus Conference:** The two final weeks of class will be devoted to a consensus conference. Students will take on the roles of various characters in order to debate and discuss issues related to a technology. Students will vote on the topic of the conference. Students will be graded on the quality of their preparation and participation. There may be written components during class.

**Tests:** There will be two tests taken during class. They will be handwritten. No notes may be used.

## **Course Policies**

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### **Attendance and Participation**

Missed class work, quizzes, and tests can be made up with a valid excuse, which will be granted in the case of illness or emergency documented through OSL, Institute Approved Absence, official accommodation, or pre-arranged religious obligation. Accommodations, illnesses, or other conflicts must be documented through the appropriate University channels. Make-ups must be arranged promptly.

**AI Use**

AI, including large language models, may not be used for any purpose in this course. Using AI will be counted as a form of plagiarism.

**Late Work**

No late work is permitted except in the case of illness or emergency documented through OSL, Institute Approved Absence, official accommodation, or pre-arranged religious obligation.

**Academic Integrity**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

**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. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.