Sci, Tech & Human Values

Course prefix: PHIL

Course number: 3127

Section: K05, K06

CRN
27193 27194

Instructor first name: Clint

Instructor last name: Johnson

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

What is the relationship between developments in science, technological progress and changes in human values? Do new technologies imply changes in values or do changes in values drive the development of new technology? Focusing specifically on the current developments in artificial intelligence, how should we understand the way that the *pace* of technological development could precipitate changes in values.

To answer these questions, this course will first introduce the current pressing issues with AI, ethics and social change: alignment, job displacement, our relationship with the idea of human intelligence and uniqueness. We will then look at the building blocks of value, what a worldview is and why we think the way that we do about value. We all have strong opinions on the state of the world and how technology is changing the world, but isn't it strange that people in this culture are so similar with those values? We will then look at ownership of values and beliefs, where they come from and the possibility of intentionally creating new ones. While it may seem like no one can know where we are going, it may not be as much of a black box as you might imagine. We will look at theory lag and how philosophical thinking on the intersection of virtual and "real" content affects us and finally how even our conception of self is currently (and rapidly!) changing.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Academic Honor Code

Speaking with other people about the arguments for your papers is helpful and, indeed, is expected. Submitting any work other than your own however is a violation of the Academic Honor Code. Quoting other authors, of course, is common practice. You must however distinguish clearly between your own work and that of others. If you quote or paraphrase an idea from someone else, you must cite them. All sources should be listed in the references section of your papers. I have a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to know what plagiarism is. Plagiarism will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code. That said, I have never pursued a plagiarism case for a student who did not properly cite by accident.

For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult me or www.honor.gatech.edu.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge

in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and

support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following

Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion