

**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
*Eligible as a substitution for CS 4001 for CS majors;
Fulfills Social Science and Humanities elective credits**

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Birchfield

Office: Room 227
Office Hours: Mondays 2:30 --4 :00 p.m.
and by appointment
vicki.birchfield@inta.gatech.edu

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, machine learning, 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 culpability when drones kill innocent civilians? How do different societies adapt to technologically driven, structural transformations? Are global ethical norms desirable and achievable? The course explores the ethical implications of emerging or already existing 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 for grappling with such questions, its main goal is to encourage ethical analysis and social scientific thinking as well the application of concepts and ethical decisions making frameworks to specific global issues and problems.

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 (6th or 7th 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
- *Artificial Unintelligence*, by Meredith Broussard

*Most readings can be located online and/or uploaded Canvas and several hard copies are available in the GTL library.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Class Participation – **20%** 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 International New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Economist*.
2. Quizzes and Homework – **20%** 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 choose a topic that requires ethical decision making within the international system or global community due to the border transcending nature of the technology or policy issue. The project will be divided into two distinct parts: a research paper and an in-class presentation. 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 of the paper should explore the pertinent societal implications and ethical dilemmas brought forth by the particular technological development (or policy challenge) 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 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.

- Participation 20%
- Quizzes and HW 20%
- Group Project 40%
- 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
Week One	Course Introduction
	Ethical Questions and Moral Values in International Affairs ➤ Amstutz, Introduction
Week Two	Morality and Foreign Policy ➤ Amstutz, Ch 1
	Ethics and Global Society

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amstutz, Ch 2 Debate communitarianism vs. cosmopolitanism
Week Three	<p>Ethics and Global Society in the Information Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quinn, Chapter 1 & 2 <p>HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT/In-class quiz</p>
	<p>The Role of Ethical Traditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amstutz, Ch. 3
Week Four	<p>Strategies of Ethical Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amstutz, Ch 4
	<p>Networked Communications, Intellectual Property and Information Privacy</p> <p>In class viewing and/or listening to student selected Video clips/Ted Talks /Podcasts)</p> <p>NOTE: QUINN Readings Chapters 3, 4 and 5 (selections, pre-assigned)</p>
Week Five	<p>The Ethics of International Economic Relations</p> <p>Topics: Globalization, Financial Crises, Debt Relief, Economic Sanctions</p> <p>*Readings posted on Canvas</p> <p>Begin reading <i>Weapons of Math Destruction</i></p>
Week Six	<p>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)</p> <p>The European Approach/Background Reading: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-connected-digital-single-market/file-artificial-intelligence-for-europe</p> <p>RESEARCH TOPICS SELECTED and TEAMS FORMED</p> <p>Mid -Term BREAK</p>
Week Seven	<p>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)</p> <p>The European Approach/Background Reading: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-connected-digital-single-market/file-artificial-intelligence-for-europe</p>
Week Eight	<p>What special responsibilities do scientists, technologists and computing professionals have?</p>

	<p>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/</p>
Week Nine	<p><i>Visual and statistical thinking: displays of evidence for decision making</i> Selected Reading from Tufte posted on Canvas</p>
Week Ten	<p>Technology, Digitalization and Professional Ethics In what ways does computer technology impact society? Topics: privacy, intellectual property, and freedom of speech</p> <p>*Selected Readings from Quinn, Chapters 6 & 9</p>
Week Eleven	<p>White Papers Due/Class Discussions and individual meetings with Professor Reading: <i>Of Privacy and Power</i> (selections posted on Canvas)</p>
Week Twelve	<p>Ethics at the intersection of science, technology and international affairs in the Global Digital Era</p> <p>CASE STUDIES and DEBATES</p> <p>Possible Topics: Surveillance Technologies; Gender and Racial Bias problems with facial recognition technologies; Intellectual Property and Software as Intellectual Property; Huawei and 5 G ???</p>
Week Thirteen	<p>Class presentations of final projects Reading: Selections from <i>Artificial Unintelligence</i> by Meredith Broussard Assignments and Reading Guide distributed on March 30</p>
Week Fourteen	<p>Presentations Continued</p>
Week Fifteen	<p>Discussion and Debate of <i>Artificial Unintelligence</i></p>
	<p>Final take-home Exam/Essay due via email to professor</p>