GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY/Georgia Tech Lorraine
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs/Ivan Allen College

INTA 2030: Ethics in International Affairs
(*Politics and Ethics in the Global Digital Era/substitute for CS 4001)

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Birchfield

Office: Room 227
Office Hours: Mondays 9:30 to 10:30
and by appointment
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*Due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, the modality of this course (residential) could be subject to change to remote or hybrid instruction. For up-to-date information on the Covid-19 situation in Europe, see: https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/situation-updates

Requirements specific to Fall 2020:
Course delivery*: Residential Spread (following distancing guidelines) Each student will be expected to sit in an assigned seat. Georgia Tech Lorraine follows the Covid 19 recommendations posted by both the Ministere de l'Education Nationale imposing a minimum of 1 meter lateral distance between two students in class and the ones of the USG requiring to wear a mask if a 6 feet (1.8 meter) minimum social distancing cannot be respected. You are all required to wear a face covering while inside any campus facilities/buildings, including during in-person classes, and to adhere to social distancing of at least 6 feet. If an individual forgets to bring a face covering to class or into any indoor space, there will be a clearly marked supply of these in each building. If a student fails to follow Georgia Tech's policies on social distancing and face coverings, they will initially be reminded of the policy and if necessary, asked to leave the class, meeting, or space. If they still fail to follow the policy, they may be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. Information on the Institute's policy on face coverings.*

Course Description

This course investigates issues of moral values and ethical reasoning in international relations and global society in the digital era. 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? The course explores the ethical implications of emerging technologies that challenge notions of national sovereignty and government control and that render borders porous, if not obsolete. We also study questions such as how Big Data and the Internet of Things might dislodge our traditional notions of freedom, equality, privacy, and human rights? While the course emphasizes theoretical concepts and philosophical approaches, its main goal is to encourage ethical analysis by applying those concepts to specific global issues and problems. The course should equip students with the knowledge and skills to analyze how cultural norms and ethical values shape societal choices and influence global governance in our increasingly complex, interconnected and multipolar world.

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 (4th ed.), by Mark Amstutz
Ethics for the Information Age (7th ed.), by Michael Quinn

Selections from the following:
- *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy,* by Cathy O'Neil
- Artificial *Un*intelligence: How Computers *Mis*understand the World by Meredith Broussard
- Of Privacy and Power: The Transatlantic Struggle over Freedom and Security by Henry Farrell and Abraham L. Newman

    *Most readings will be available on Canvas and in the GTL library.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Class Participation – **30%** of course grade
   Students are **<u>required</u>** to attend lectures and complete all assigned readings **<u>before</u>** 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 New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Economist*.

2. Quizzes and Homework – **10%** of course grade.
   There will be occasional, sometimes 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 for 30% and 10 % of the grade respectively. 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 half 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. **NOTE: All CS majors have to write an individual paper but may still work in groups for the research and presentation components.**

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   30%
- Quizzes and HW   10%
- Group Project   40%
- Final Exam/essay   20%

Honor Code, Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy
"I commit to uphold the ideals of honor and integrity by refusing to betray the trust bestowed upon me as a member of the Georgia Tech community."

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. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, visit http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/ or http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/.   Please also be aware that plagiarism is a serious offense and if suspected will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity.

Statement on inclusiveness

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

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.

Special Accommodations
Students requesting academic accommodations based on a documented disability are required to register with the Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS). Please obtain a form from the ADAPTS office and turn it in to me during office hours or in class at the beginning of the semester. (http://www.adapts.gatech.edu).

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Date	Topics and Readings
September 2	**Course Introduction**
September 4	**Ethical Questions and Moral Values in International Affairs** Reading: Amstutz, Introduction
September 7	**Morality and Foreign Policy** Reading: Amstutz, Ch 1

September 9	**Ethics and Global Society**
	        Reading: Amstutz, Ch 2
	        Debate communitarianism vs. cosmopolitanism

September 14 & 16	**Ethics and Global Society in the Information Age**
	        Reading: Quinn, Chapter 1 & 2
	
	        *HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT/In-class quiz

September 21	**The Role of Ethical Traditions** Reading: Amstutz, Ch. 3
September 23	**Strategies of Ethical Decision Making** Reading: Amstutz, Ch 4

September 28	**Networked Communications, Intellectual Property and Information Privacy** In class viewing and/or listening to podcast with Farrell and Newman QUINN Readings Chapters 3, 4 and 5 (selections, pre-assigned) Selections from "Of Privacy and Power"

September 30	**The Ethics of International Economic Relations**
	      Topics: Globalization, Financial Crises, Debt Relief, Economic Sanctions
	      Begin reading *Weapons of Math Destruction*

October 5 &7	**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 **The European Approach/Background Reading:** http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-connected-digital-single-market/file-artificial-intelligence-for-europe **RESEARCH TOPICS SELECTED and TEAMS FORMED**
October 12 & 14	**Technology, Digitalization and Professional Ethics** In what ways does computer technology impact society? Topics: privacy, intellectual property, and freedom of speech *Selected Readings from Quinn, Chapters 6 & 9 Discussion of *Weapons of Math Destruction* (Chapters 1-5) **Possible Quiz**
October 19	**What special responsibilities do scientists, technologists and computing professionals have?** Software Engineering Code of Ethics and ACM Code of Ethics Discussion and Debate: How can we apply these in our daily practice? * https://thebulletin.org/2019/08/why-facebook-youtube-and-twitter-are-bad-for-the-climate/ Discussion of *Weapons of Math Destruction* (Chapters 6-10)
October 21	*Visual and statistical thinking: displays of evidence for decision making* Selected Reading from Tufte posted on Canvas **CATCH -UP /wrap- up discussion of *Weapons of Math Destruction***
October 26 & 28	**Virtue Ethics and Stakeholder Analysis** Debate: Ethics and Perspective taking CASE STUDY of COVID -19: the ethical questions and technological implications of a global pandemic
November 2	**White Papers Due/Class Discussions and individual meetings with Professor**

November 4	**Ethics at the intersection of science, technology and international affairs in the Global Digital Era** Class presentations of final projects Reading: Begin reading *Artificial Unintelligence* by Meredith Broussard; assign chapters
November 9 & 11	Presentations continued
November 16 & 18	Discussion and Debate of *Artificial Unintelligence*
November 23	**LAST CLASS: Course wrap-up and discussion of final essay prompt**
December 2	**Final take-home Exam/Essay due via email**