

PHIL 292: Advanced Seminar in Ethics or Aesthetics
The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
Wednesdays from 6 pm to 8:45 pm, Fall 2024 (online synchronous)
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**This course is open to all advanced undergraduate and graduate students at SJSU regardless of their program of study.*



AI will greatly impact the future, but it is already shaping the present. Today, a large part of democratic discussion happens on social media platforms, where users' speech is mediated by algorithms that fuel misinformation and conflict. Life-changing decisions about hiring, credit scores, bank loans and parole are increasingly made by AI, but many scholars worry that these decisions unfairly disadvantaged members of marginalized groups. As machine learning algorithms are complex and require massive amounts of data to function, the rise of AI also poses a fundamental threat to citizens' abilities to protect their privacy and understand how decisions about them are made. Lastly, the development of AI and robots is profoundly transforming the economy, warfare, healthcare and human intimacy, and some AI scientists even worry that it could lead to the destruction of humanity.

This seminar is an introduction to the main ethical challenges raised by the rapid development of AI. It will be divided into five modules: (i) AI and Democracy, (ii) AI, Fairness and Discrimination, (iii) AI, Privacy and Transparency; (iv) Robotization and Human Welfare, and (v) Existential Risk. Students without prior background in philosophy or technical training in computer science are welcome. Each week, a pair of students will present the weekly readings. All students will have the opportunity to present their research paper in the context of a mini conference.