ECS188: Ethics in an Age of Technology
Fall 2020

Patrice Koehl (koehl@cs.ucdavis.edu)

Information sheet

Check here for announcements, handouts (pdf and ppt), recommended readings, assignments, etc.

Final: No final!

Contacts: koehl@cs.ucdavis.edu
I answer to ALL e-mails. I do NOT guarantee however that I answer PROMPTLY…

Attendance:
- You are expected to attend lectures, and you are responsible for the material discussed in class.
- Discussions are optional. I will be there, to discuss class materials and papers.

Grading: 40% reports, 25% oral presentations, 35% term paper. Note that the lowest grade of the 4 reports will be dropped.

Online version of the course. This fall will be unusual as I will offer ECS188 online, not by choice but as a consequence of the health crisis and of the university considering ECS188 not special enough to justify arrangements to be taught in person. While I disagree with the latter, I will teach the course online because of the former. As this is a class based on discussions, with the success of the class associated with participation, there are a few adjustments that need to be considered for its online version:

• The class is offered synchronously
• Recording: Recording is not permitted, with the exception of permission granted with a Letter of Accommodation issued by the Student Disability Center
• Privacy: "Respect for privacy is an essential part of our classroom community. Images, text, screenshots, audio/video content from Zoom sessions may only be used for instructional purposes of this course. Participants should not distribute data captured from Zoom sessions to anyone outside the course, without appropriate consent from the individuals whose images/voice/data are involved. Unauthorized distribution or capture outside the course may violate federal or state privacy laws or University of California policies. This means, for instance, you should not post screenshots of your class, your instructor, or your classmates to social media"
• **Code of Conduct:** "As a member of the UC Davis community, students are expected to adhere to the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct that supports high standards of behavior and ensures fair evaluation of student learning."

**Course Description (from Phil. Rogaway):**

The course material will be broad, open-ended, and unlike anything else that begins with the letters ECS most of the class time will be spent with you guys talking. At the end of the term, your evaluation will state the following: *My goal is to increase your inclination to think about, and act upon, the ethical implications of your personal and professional choices, and our collective work as technologists. I’d also like you to read a lot, to write a fair amount, and to become more comfortable participating in oral discussions and giving an oral presentation.*