Computers and Society
CPSC 430

Lecture 2 – Course Topics

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Topics (pretty cool stuff, actually ☺)

- History of computing, storage, networking (next 3 classes)
- Ethics & Argumentation (5 classes)
- Social issues (1 week each):
  - Networked communications
  - Intellectual Property
  - Information Privacy
  - Privacy and the Government
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Computer & Network Security
  - Computer Reliability
  - Professional Ethics
  - Work & Wealth
- Rest of today:
  - break into 18 groups
  - get assigned a statement and a position for or against
  - develop arguments for your assigned position
  - present your list to the class; we'll discuss briefly
  - everyone votes on the issue (you vote freely)
  - we'll revisit these questions throughout the course. You'll get to see if your opinions change.

Small Groups

Networked Communications	Intellectual Property	Information Privacy
"Social networks should be held legally liable for the content of any post promoted to the feeds of over 100,000 users." **1: for; 10: against**	"Social networks should be held legally liable for the content of any post promoted to the feeds of over 100,000 users." **2: for; 11: against**	"It should be illegal for shopping malls to install cameras for tracking customer behavior." **3: for; 12: against**
Privacy and the Government	**Computer and Network Security**	**Computer Reliability**
"It should be illegal to sell a mobile phone that cannot be decrypted by the police if so ordered by a court." **4: for; 13: against**	"Canadians should be able to vote online in federal, provincial and municipal elections." **5: for; 14: against**	"Self-driving cars should be allowed to operate on public roads once they have been shown to be at least slightly safer than the average human driver." **6: for; 15: against**
Professional Ethics	**Work and Wealth**	**Artificial Intelligence**
"Computer scientists and data scientists should not aid in the development of autonomous weapon systems." **7: for; 16: against**	"The activity of a company's employees on their work computers, such as what applications they have opened and for how long, should be considered private and may not be tracked by the company." **8: for; 17: against**	"Content generated by artificial intelligence systems (e.g., ChatGPT, DALL-E) that require minimal human input should not receive copyright protection." **9: for; 18: against**

Networked Communications

"Social networks should be held
legally liable for the content of any post
promoted to the feeds of over 100,000 users."

Intellectual Property

"The government should refrain from prosecuting intellectual property infringement by individuals, such as peer-to-peer file sharing."

Information Privacy

"It should be illegal for shopping malls to install cameras for tracking customer behavior."