

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
 - Computer & Network Security
 - Computer Reliability
 - Professional Ethics
 - Work & Wealth
- Rest of today:
 - break into 16 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.

Breakout Rooms

Networked Communications

"Any social network above a certain size should be required to verify the identities of its members."

For: 1; Against: 2

Source: @Bridgette, <https://twitter.com/CSISandB/hashtag/2017>

Intellectual Property

"The government should aggressively prosecute intellectual property infringement, particularly including peer-to-peer file sharing."

For: 3; Against: 4

Source: @Bridgette, <https://twitter.com/CSISandB/hashtag/2017>

Information Privacy

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

For: 5; Against: 6

Source: @Bridgette, <https://twitter.com/CSISandB/hashtag/2017>

Privacy and the Government

"It should be illegal to sell a mobile phone that cannot be decrypted by the police if so ordered by a court."

For: 7; Against: 8

Source: @Bridgette, <https://twitter.com/CSISandB/hashtag/2017>

Computer and Network Security

"Canadians should be able to vote online in federal, provincial and municipal elections."

For: 9; Against: 10

Source: @Bridgette, <https://twitter.com/CSISandB/hashtag/2017>

Computer Reliability

"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."

For: 11; Against: 12

Source: @Bridgette, <https://twitter.com/CSISandB/hashtag/2017>

Professional Ethics

"It is unethical for computer scientists to aid in the development of autonomous weapon systems."

For: 13; Against: 14

Source: @Bridgette, <https://twitter.com/CSISandB/hashtag/2017>

Work and Wealth

"The government should attempt to slow or stop the spread of automation technologies that are likely to eliminate large numbers of jobs."

For: 15; Against: 16

Source: @Bridgette, <https://twitter.com/CSISandB/hashtag/2017>

Networked Communications

“Any social network above a certain size should be required to verify the identities of its members.”

Intellectual Property

“The government should aggressively prosecute intellectual property infringement, particularly including peer-to-peer file sharing.”