PHIL 1300: Knowledge in a Digital World

Professor Don Fallis (d.fallis@northeastern.edu)

Sequence: M/W 2:50-4:30pm

Examines the impact that information technologies (such as the internet, search engines, blogs, wikis, and smartphones); information processing techniques (such as big data analysis, machine learning, crowdsourcing, and cryptography); and information policies (such as privacy norms and speech restrictions) have on what we know and how much we know, as individuals and as a society. The digital world can enhance our ability to acquire knowledge by providing us with fast and cheap access to huge amounts of information. However, it can also undermine our cognitive abilities and provide us with inaccurate or misleading information. Studies normative frameworks from epistemology and ethics (such as epistemic value theory, the extended mind hypothesis, and moral rights) to evaluate these technologies and policies.

NU Attributes:

ER- Employing Ethical Reasoning
SI- Understanding Societies and Institutions

This course is also cross listed with IS 1300

This course can be used to satisfy one of the Major/ Minor requirements:

Philosophy Major Elective
Philosophy Minor Elective
Ethics Minor Elective
Information Ethics Minor Elective