

Fall 2026

PHILOSOP 9420: Data, Decisions, and Dilemmas: The Ethics of Machine Learning

AREA

MPL

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will think about ethical and social questions that arise with our increasing reliance on machine learning in various aspects of our decisions. We look at questions such as: What does it mean for an algorithm to be fair? What are the risks involved in relying on machine predictions without being able to explain how these predictions came about? What are the ethical concerns unique to using data about people, and what can we do to ensure that their privacy is protected while promoting transparency?

This will be an interdisciplinary course, and we will engage with literature not just in philosophy but also computer science and statistics.