

**FALL 2017**  
**PHIL 3423 Philosophy & Artificial Intelligence**  
**Section: MY9    Registration Code: 15364**  
**PROFESSOR ANNA GOTLIB**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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Since the computational revolution beginning in the mid-1900s, many have thought about how to create genuinely intelligent artificial systems that can be said to have minds. But what does it mean to have a mind, or to be genuinely intelligent? What would it take to build such a system, and how would we know whether we built one? Moreover, what do our presuppositions about what we think it takes to create such a mind or consciousness tell us about our own conceptions about what a mind or consciousness might be? Could artificial intelligences ever be truly conscious, and could they ever think, have their own goals, their own hopes, fears, and so on?

This course will offer an overview of some of the fundamental philosophical dilemmas inherent in the growth and developments of artificial intelligence, and challenge our current philosophical and scientific frameworks for thinking about them. In addition to the queries above, we will address questions such as: How might society respond as robots and other intelligent systems displace human workers? Will the benefits of this technological revolution be broadly distributed, or only be available to a lucky few? How might our ethical principles be confronted both by the emerging new intelligences, as well as by our rapidly-changing interactions with them? What is transhumanism, and what might the consequences be for our understanding of our personal identities if we are able to upload ourselves to intelligent machines? The format of the course is seminar-style discussion, with an emphasis on active student participation.