

Law E547: Robotics Law and Policy

Spring 2017 | Tuesdays/Fridays 1:30 to 3:20 PM | Rooms 119/116 William H.
Gates Hall

[@RoboticsLaw](#)

Instructor

Prof. Ryan Calo | rcalo@uw.edu | (206) 543-1580) I am generally available by appointment.

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To request accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Resources for Students at (206) 543-8924 or (206) 543-8925 (TTY). We'll then set up a time to review their recommendations.

Course Objectives

This seminar has three objectives. First, the course aims to introduce you to some of the core law and policy issues robotics present, particularly in the near term. Second, using robotics as a case study, the course aims to sharpen your ability to state and defend a legal or policy thesis. Finally, the course aims to generate promising approaches to addressing the legal and policy issues robotics and artificial intelligence raise. This seminar represents an ongoing experiment in interdisciplinary study; feedback is warmly welcome.

Course Expectations

I expect you to regularly attend class, to be prepared for class, and to participate in class discussion to the extent you are comfortable. You will be divided into teams for purposes of a final project. The project should identify an area where robotics or artificial intelligence could pose challenges for law and policy and offer a potential way to address those challenges. Please schedule a time to meet with me if you have any questions or concerns.

Access and Accommodation

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 011 Mary Gates Hall or 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Please pay close attention to the dates and locations.

Schedule & Readings

Tuesday, April 4: Introduction to Robotics Law (Room 119)

1. Sam Lehman-Wilzig, *Frankenstein Unbound: Towards a Legal Definition of Artificial Intelligence*, FUTURES (Dec. 1981), available online at http://proflw.com/wp-content/uploads/academic/40_Frankenstein_Unbound.Towards_a_legal_definition...pdf.
2. Ryan Calo, *Robotics and the Lessons of Cyberlaw*, 103 California Law Review 513 (2015), available online at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2402972.
3. Jack Balkin, *The Path of Robotics Law*, 5 California Law Review Circuit 45 (2015), available online at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2586570.

Friday, April 14: Drones (Room 116)

1. Ryan Calo, *The Drone as Privacy Catalyst*, 64 Stanford Law Review Online 29 (2011), available online at <http://www.stanfordlawreview.org/online/drone-privacy-catalyst>.
2. Margot Kaminski, *Drone Federalism: Civilian Drones and the Things They Carry*, 4 California Law Review Circuit 57 (2013), available online at <http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1007&context=clrcircuit>.
3. A. Michael Froomkin & Zak Colangelo, *Self-Defense Against Robots and Drones*, 48 Connecticut Law Review 1 (2015), available online at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2504325.

Tuesday, April 18: Driverless Cars (Room 119)

1. Bryant Walker Smith, *How Governments Can Promote Automated Driving*, available online at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2749375.
2. Patrick Lin, *Why Ethics Matters for Autonomous Cars*, in AUTONOMES FAHREN (2015).
3. National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), [Letter to Google](#) (Feb. 4, 2016).

Tuesday, April 25: Home Robots (Room 119)

1. Ryan Calo, *Robots And Privacy*, in *Robot Ethics: The Ethical And Social Implications of Robotics* (MIT Press 2011), available online at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1599189>.
2. Ryan Calo, *Open Robotics*, 70 Maryland Law Review 571 (2011), available online at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1706293.
3. Woodrow Hartzog, *Unfair and Deceptive Robots*, 74 Maryland Law Review 785 (2015), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2602452.

Friday, April 28: Robot Speech (Room 116)

1. Tim Wu, *Machine Speech*, 161 *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 1495 (2013), available online at http://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1021&context=penn_law_review.
2. Pamela Samuelson, *Allocating Ownership Rights in Computer-Generated Works*, 1185 *University of Pittsburgh Law Review* 47 (1986), available online at <http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2067&context=facpubs>.
3. Annemarie Bridy, *Coding Creativity: Copyright and the Artificially Intelligent Author*, 2012 *Stanford Technology Law Review* 5 (2012), available online at <http://web.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/kernoachan/09.materials-Bridy.pdf>

Tuesday, May 2: Bots (Room 119)

1. Ian R. Kerr, *Bots, Babes, and the Californication of Commerce*, 1 *University of Ottawa Law and Technology Journal* 285 (2003-04), available online at <http://www.uoltj.ca/articles/vol1.1-2/2003-2004.1.1-2.uoltj.Kerr.285-324.pdf>.
2. Samuel C. Woolley, *Automating power: Social bot interference in global politics*, 21 *First Monday* (Apr. 4, 2016), available online at <http://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/6161/5300>.

Tuesday, May 9: Social Impacts (Room 119)

1. Julia Angwin et al., *Machine Bias*, ProPublica (May 23, 2016), available online at <https://www.propublica.org/article/machine-bias-risk-assessments-in-criminal-sentencing>.
2. Jack Clark, *Artificial Intelligence Has a “Sea of Dudes” Problem*, Bloomberg (June 23, 2016), available online at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-06-23/artificial-intelligence-has-a-sea-of-dudes-problem>.
3. Kate Crawford & Ryan Calo, *There is a blind spot in AI research*, *Nature* (Oct. 13, 2016), available online at <http://www.nature.com/news/there-is-a-blind-spot-in-ai-research-1.20805>.
4. Kristen M.J. Thomasen, *Beyond Airspace Safety: Feminist Perspectives on Drone Regulation and Privacy in Public*, We Robot Working Paper (April 2, 2017), available online at <http://www.werobot2017.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Thomasen-Feminist-Perspectives-on-Drone-Regulation-We-Robot-1.pdf>.

Friday, May 12: Personhood (Room 116)

1. Lawrence Solum, *Legal Personhood for Artificial Intelligences*, 70 *North Carolina Law Review* 1231 (1992), available online at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1108671>.
2. James Boyle, *Endowed by Their Creator? The Future of Constitutional Personhood*, Brookings Institution (Mar. 9, 2011), available online at http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Papers/2011/3/09%20personhood%20boyle/03_09_personhood_boyle.PDF.
3. Kate Darling, *Extending Legal Rights to Robots*, (Apr. 23, 2012), available online at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2044797.

Tuesday, May 16: Class Presentations (Room 119)