

# **Class Debate #3**

**Embedded EthiCS - What can we do better?**

# Teaching Ethics within Computer Science

- Debate statement: Ethics can and should be taught, especially in the context of computer science curriculum.
  - Pro: yes - it will create a meaningful difference, and there are synergies to be had if ethics is taught alongside various CS courses.
  - Against: no - tech is just tech, and any attempt to embed ethics into CS will result in mostly superficial examples; even more, it is doubtful whether you can really “teach” moral behaviour.

# Class Discussion on November 22

- Introduction of the topic (5 minute by me)
- Then I will invite those who want to present their deliverables (see the end of this slide)

# Scene 1: Embedded EthiCS

- There is a Harvard-led movement called Embedded EthiCS
  - <https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2019/8/238345-embedded-ethics/fulltext>
  - Claims
    - Embedding ethical reasoning throughout the CS curriculum can habituate students to think ethically.
    - Studies of ethics can be embedded into existing courses instead of extra ones.
    - Collaborating with philosophy colleagues can help.

# Scene 2: how to have an evaluated course about ethics

- Questions based on course feedback and my self-doubts :)
  - “Should an ethics course be letter graded? How is the difference in grades justified?”
  - “Are we preaching to the choir?”
  - “How much influence can the lecturer have? Can a student totally disagree with the lecturer’s moral compass, and get a good grade?”
  - “What is the best way to have active discussion? What can we do about language barriers?”

# Discussion & Deliverable

**You can volunteer to present one of the following.**

- Suppose you can introduce a new activity/lecture/event/assignment to CS489 Autumn 2024: what would you do?
  - Draft a short paragraph introducing the proposed activity/lecture/event/assignment...
- Suppose you can modify an existing undergraduate course at School of Computing, KAIST, to embed ethics related material: which course would you choose, and what would you add?
  - Draft the course curriculum paragraph, with an explicit emphasis on what the ethical component is and how it is to be evaluated.

# CS489 Autumn 2023 Post Course Survey

- <https://forms.gle/zPSPRcgDYHw15po29>
- This is in addition to the course evaluation.
- It is anonymous, you can write in any language.
- Be honest and frank - it will help both me and future students :)