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.

- Before starting the discussion, leave your position statement here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GfrCjXwBO-eZ3eD060E4OFdx2n3PrLN2GHMTjnelHf4/edit?usp=sharing

Class Debate November 23

- Introduction of the topic (5 minute by me)

- Read the article (15 minutes)

- Discussion: random breakout rooms (20 minutes)

  - Screen sharing will be enabled within each room

  - Each room should decide who will report

- Report: each room will report their conclusions and deliverables

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 do one of the following.

- Suppose you can introduce a new activity/lecture/event/assignment to CS489 Autumn 2022: 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 2021 Post Course Survey

- https://forms.gle/6jktU18ZDTs1fHHBA

- 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 :)