

Second Discussion Paper (Due Monday, April 3):

Write a five-page (1,500 word) essay on one of the following topics.

1. What, in your opinion, is the proper place of emotion in human moral judgment? Would it be necessary for an ethical robot to possess a capacity to read, understand, and express emotion?
 2. Among the major frameworks for ethical decision making that we have discussed are: (1) Deontology (rule based), (2) Consequentialism (such as utilitarianism), and (3) Virtue Ethics. Briefly explain the basic features of each, and then give an argument defending one of them, or some clearly articulated combination of them, as the optimal framework for ethical decision making.
 3. Some critics of the bottom-up approach to ethics programming for artificial moral agents (AMAs) argue that, with neural nets and learning algorithms, as opposed to conventional, rule-based programming, it is impossible to reconstruct an AMA's decision tree. They conclude that bottom-up approaches should, therefore, not be pursued. In effect, they assume that it is a necessary condition that an AMA be capable of justifying its moral choices. State and defend your own position on this issue.
1. What, in your view, are the chief threats to privacy arising from the development and deployment of robotic technologies? How would you address those threats?
 2. Is it morally permissible to have sex with a robot? Should the production and marketing of sex bots be prohibited by law or otherwise regulated?