

# Introduction: Technology, Choices, and Values

PHIL 4310 - Philosophy of Technology  
Fall 2014 - Lecture 1



Name You Wish to be Called



Official Name  
NetID

Major, Year

Why are you interested in this class?

One interesting fact about you that I probably wouldn't be able to guess. (On back of card if necessary.)



# About me



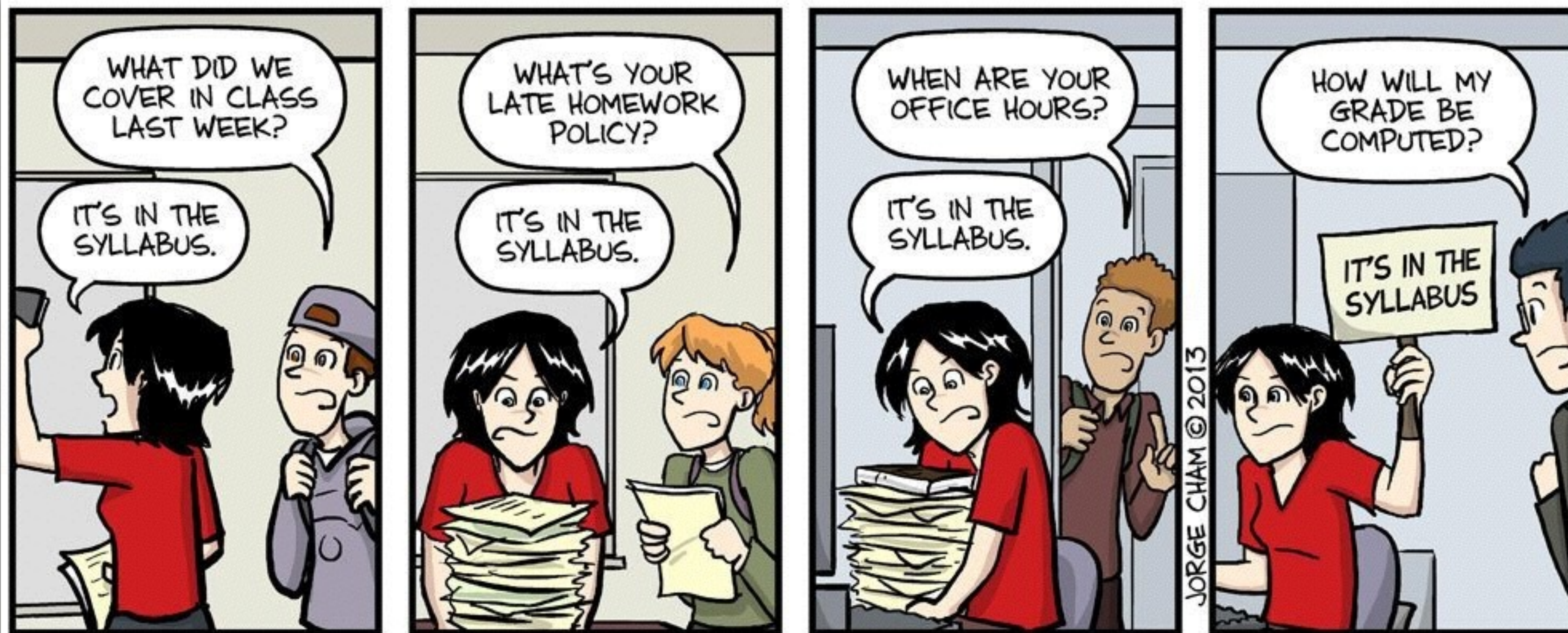


# Today....

- ✦ Introducing ourselves
- ✦ The Syllabus
- ✦ Technology, Choices, and Values







# IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message brought to you by every instructor that ever lived.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

**Or, it's on the course website!**

<http://classes.matthewjbrown.net/phil-tech>



# Course Goals

- ✦ Think critically about technology
- ✦ Learn about the philosophy of technology
- ✦ Improve written and oral communication skills
- ✦ Analyze and critically evaluate works and ideas in social, cultural, and context
- ✦ Reflect on and improve social responsibility use and creation of technology



The Textbooks, show them!



Find other readings on the  
course website!



# Course Schedule

1. Introduction - Technology, Choices, and Values
2. What Problem are we Trying to Solve?
3. The Ethics of Gathering Data
4. Ethics and Politics of Design

5. ~~Coxism in Technology~~

6. What's Wrong with "The Internet"
7. Transparency, Anonymity, and Commitment
8. The Limits of Virtual Presence

9. Gatekeeping, Policing, and Self-Tracking

10. Gamification

11. Lessons from the History of Technology

12. Heidegger's Existential Critique of Technology

13. Marcuse's Critical Theory of Technology

14. Techno-conservatism

15. A Pragmatic Approach to Technology



# Assignments

- ✦ Class Participation
- ✦ Ethics Advising Project
- ✦ Service Learning Project
- ✦ Final Exam



# Class Policies

- ✦ No late / make-up work, except...
- ✦ Attendance is mandatory
- ✦ Read assignments before class, bring a copy of the reading, listen respectfully, and participate... or else!
- ✦ Call me “Matt” or “Professor” or “Dr Brown”



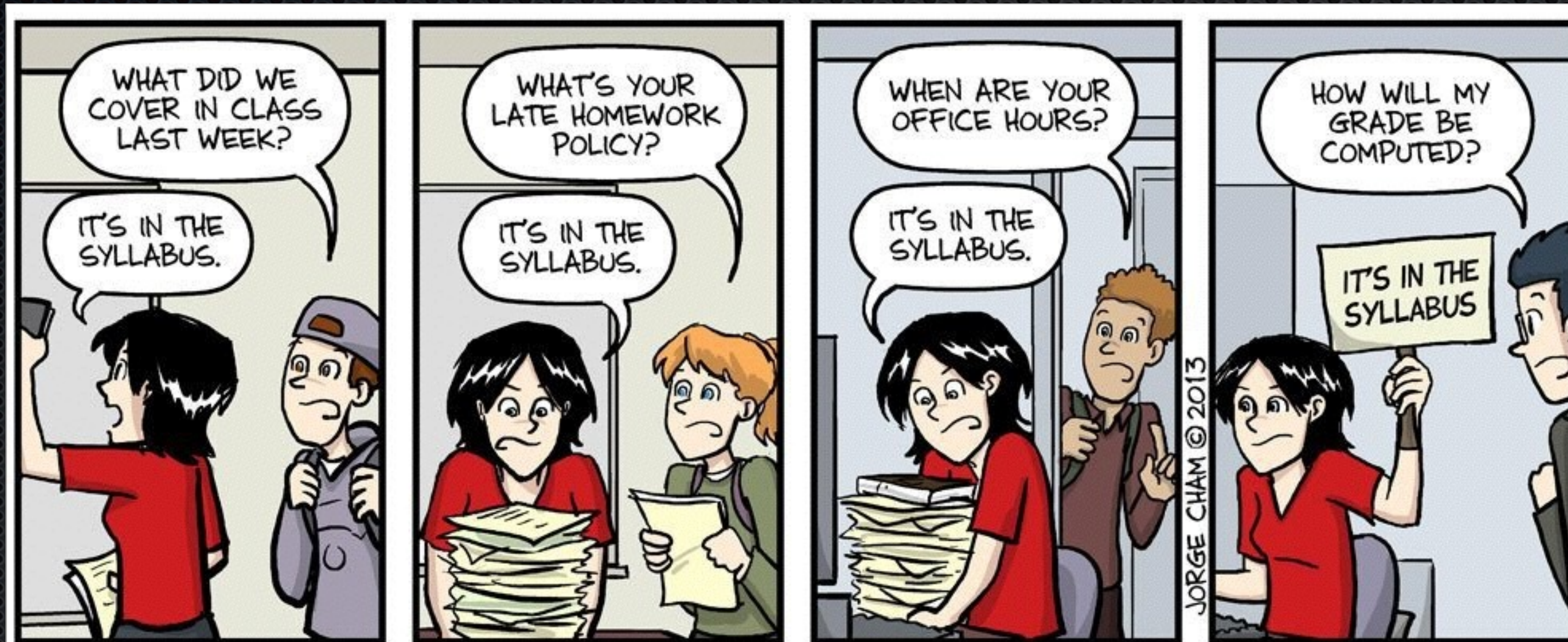


# Don't use your laptop

You and your classmates will do better without it



# Questions?



**IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS**

**Online**





# Technology, Choices, & Values

What is philosophy of technology, and what is it good for?



# What is technology?

- Tools and machines?
- Techniques?
- The System?
- Inquiry into tools, machines, techniques, and systems?



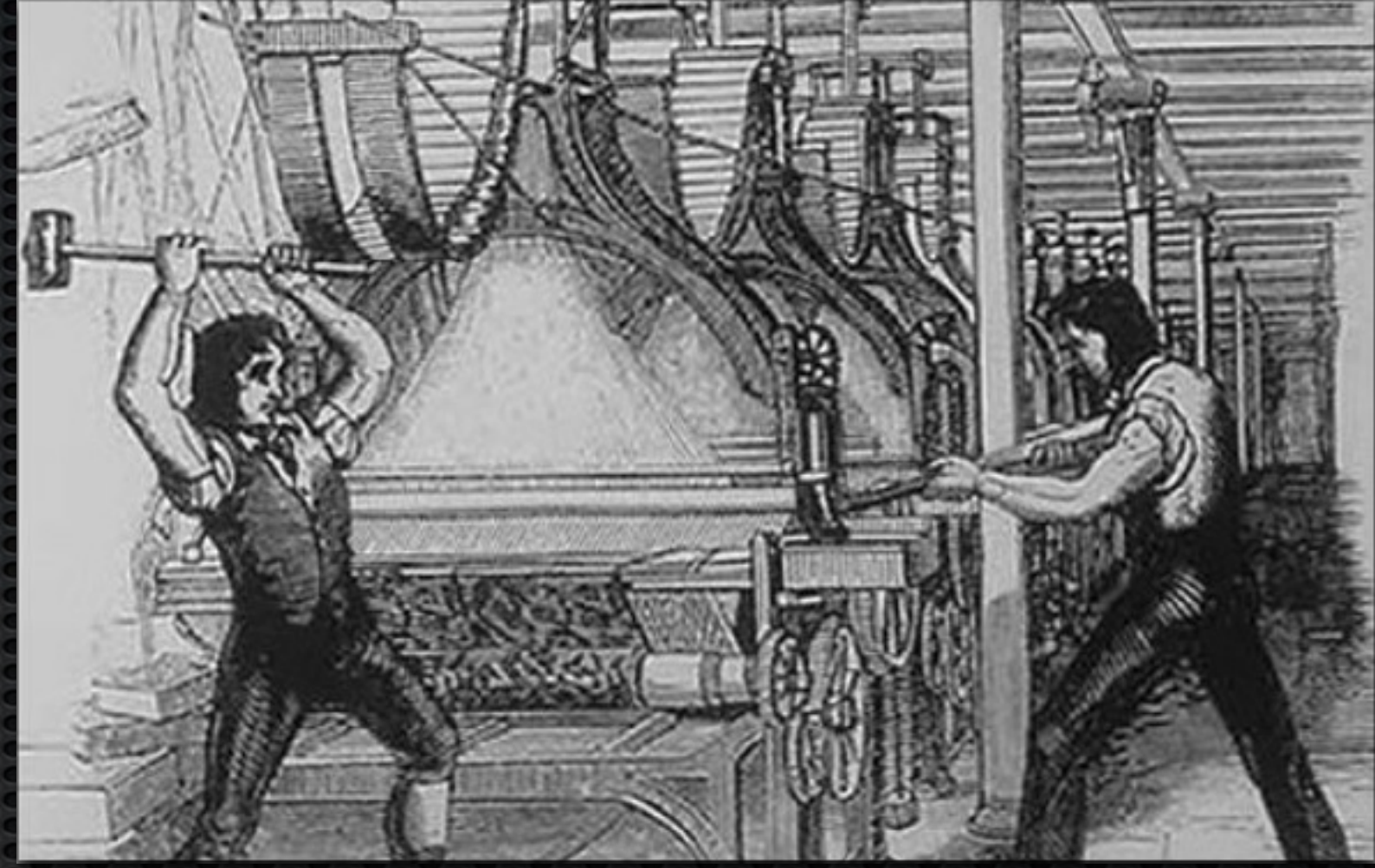


# TECHNOLOGY

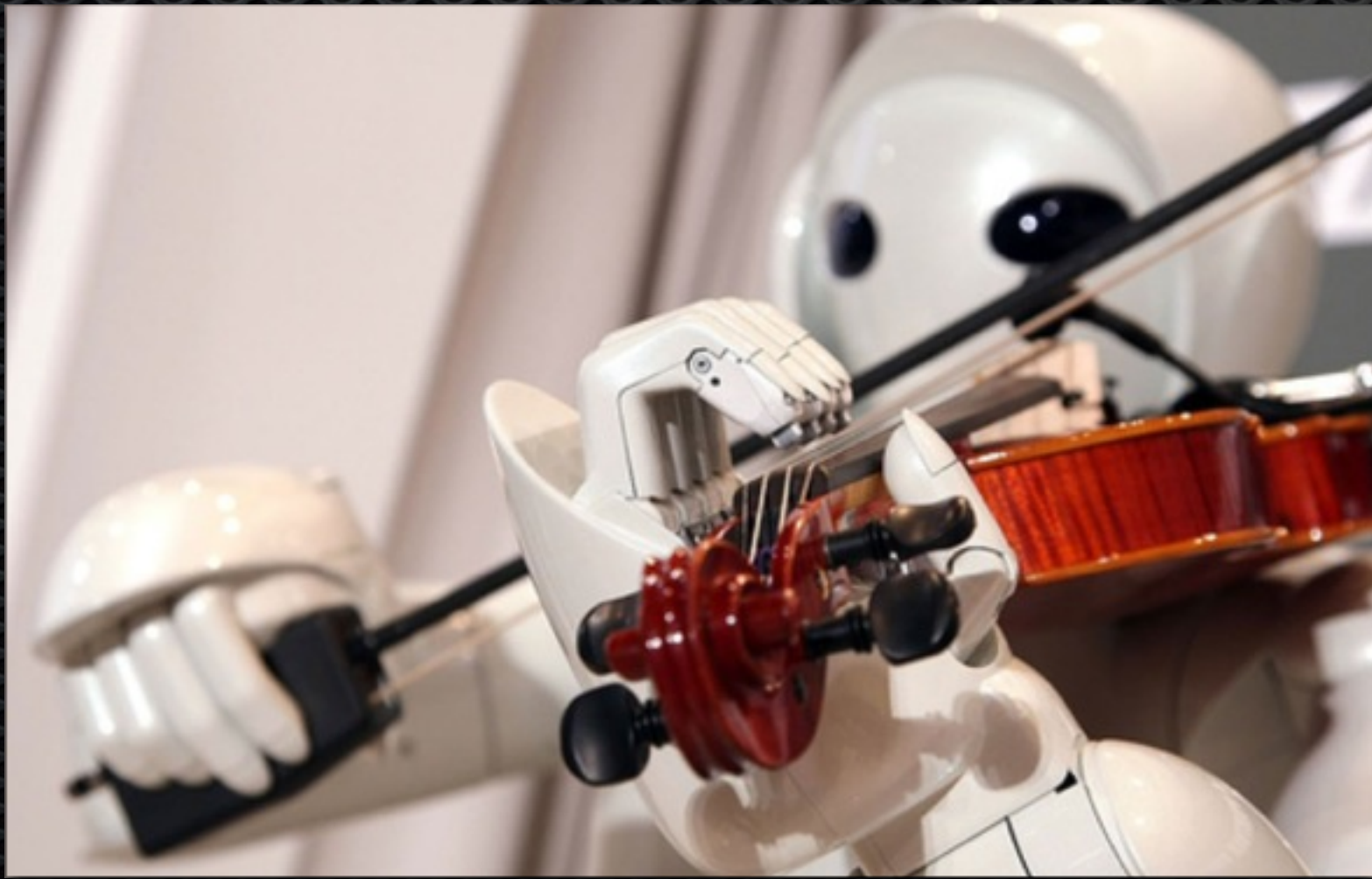


Is It Ruining Our Lives?











I need a tool to solve  
this problem

How do I know  
this is the right  
tool for the job?

Technological inquiry is a  
series of **choices**

How should I  
design this tool?

Should we adopt  
this tool or not?



Choices require **values.**





Choices → Values → Responsibility



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