WHAT THIS COURSE IS ABOUT

▸ What does contemporary issues mean?
▸ What is computer science?
▸ Why should you care?
WHAT THIS COURSE WANTS TO ACHIEVE

- Inform and motivate ethical action in the world
  - Personal and public awareness
  - Personal and professional conduct
- Encourage good oral and written communication skills
  - Clear, concise writing
  - Clear, concise public speaking
COURSE WORK

- Weekly blog posts
  - Use any flavor of blogging platform
  - Should be ~250-500 words long
  - Can express personal views but remain professional and discussable (no unsupported arguments)
- Daily peer-review and presentation of classmate’s work
- Midterm paper
- Final project, including report, video, and presentation
COURSE FORMAT

- At the beginning of every class, one student will present on another classmate’s blog post
  - Class will analyze writer’s arguments and presenters communication
- Background material on that day’s topic
- Class discussion of related issues
  - Participation is expected
COURSE EXPECTATIONS

▸ Behave according to the highest standards of ethical conduct

▸ Things you should **not** do:

▸ Plagiarize
  
  ▸ Copying ideas or direct quotes without giving credit to originator

▸ Ad hominem attacks
  
  ▸ Criticizing the person rather than the argument
SAFE SPACE?

- This is not a safe space...
- But it’s also not an unsafe space...
- ...basically you are expected to behave as a polite, professional, empathetic person.
- Ask yourself:
  - Am I being kind?
  - What am I accomplishing by saying what I’m saying?
SO LET’S TALK ETHICS!

- What systems of ethics do you follow?
- How do your beliefs impact your behavior in the world?
- What are you hoping to get out of life?
WHAT ARE SOME COMPUTER SCIENCE ISSUES?
TOPICS WE WILL DISCUSS

- Ethics and writing
- Technology in the context of:
  - Business, and law
  - Government, and law
  - Personal life, society, and law
- Technology and the future
THIS INCLUDES ISSUES RELATING TO . . .

- Security
- Privacy
- Liability
- Personal conduct
- Environment
- Globalization
- Etc...