COURSE INTRODUCTION

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CS349
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 (short), and Bi-weekly (long) essays
  - Should be short (250-500 words), or long (750-900 words)
  - Can express personal views but remain professional and discussable (no unsupported arguments)
- Peer-review of 1 (long) or 3 (short) other essays
  - Should include helpful feedback for improving writing clarity
  - Will be graded on your feedback
- Daily presentations of work and/or current events
- Midterm paper
- Final project, including report/long essay and a presentation
COURSE FORMAT

- At the beginning of every class, students will be chosen/volunteer to present on their essays, essays they peer-reviewed, or current events

- Background material on that day’s topic

- Class discussion of related issues
  - Participation is expected
  - Instapoll on Canvas used to poll opinions and take attendance
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
    ▸ Faking essay content or blatant word padding
  ▸ Ad hominem attacks
    ▸ Criticizing the person rather than the argument
SAFE SPACE?

- This is not a safe space
  - We will talk about difficult issues
- But it’s also not an unsafe space
  - You will be respected as an individual and peer by your classmates
  - ...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...
QUESTIONS?