CS 4873 Computers, Society, and Professionalism

Spring 2021

**Section Discussion Guide**

Week 1

Topics

* Welcome & Overview

I. Introductions

* Everyone in the group introduces themselves including:
* Major
  + Threads, if relevant
* Year
* An ethical issue about technology and society that interests them

II. Explain section discussion expectations

* Come to each section with a question about the lecture or readings that you find interesting
  + Bring something relevant from current news where applicable
* Read the section guide before section
* Tone of discussion
  + Remember that we represent many views
    - Everyone should feel welcome and respected
    - It’s OK to ask, “Why do you believe that?”
    - It’s OK to answer, “I don’t know--I need to think about it.”
  + Try not to dominate the discussion
    - It’s OK to occasionally have a two-person back and forth focused discussion
    - But most of the time try to let at least two other people speak before you speak again
  + Sections are small--you are expected to speak multiple times every meeting

III. Questions

* What are the important questions to each person related to computing, ethics, and society? Examples that are currently timely include
  + Big questions raised during the election (“section 230”, censorship and free speech, online hate and harassment, etc)
  + Issues raised by the pandemic such as invasive video-based proctoring
  + Racial profiling with AI
  + Sensing and privacy, and responsibility for accidents, related to self-driving cars
  + Others?
* Any further questions about the class?

IV. Introduce the readings for next week