CS 3001-C Computing, Society, and Professionalism (Spring 2022)
Week 9 Section Guide

0. TA to point the section exercise (class activities) and section discussion guide links from the course website to all of the students

I. Discussion 1: Internet Censorship (20 min).
- Should people publishing accusations against others/unsubstantiated content on their blogs or Facebook pages be held responsible if they disseminate false information (e.g., political misinformation around the elections)?
    - Sometimes people are unintentional in what they share – take the case of people sharing misinformation on Covid-19 (ref. https://www.zdnet.com/article/coronavirus-misinformation-is-increasing-newsguard-finds/ -- TA to pull it up). There's a ton of information floating on social media on magic cures and medically unverified, alternate treatment/prevention information. Should individuals sharing these information during a global crisis be penalized by platforms? What are the downsides and upsides of doing so?
- Are platform enforced measures successful in reducing hate speech and harassment?

II. Discussion 2: Facebook banning Alex Jones and Milo Yiannopoulos (20 min). TA to ask students to pull up the following link: https://www.npr.org/2019/05/03/719897599/facebook-bans-alex-jones-louis-farrakhan-and-other-dangerous-individuals
- Background
    - Alex and Milo have been widely banned from the internet
        - Reportedly can't even use Uber
        - Alex is guilty for example of claiming Sandy Hook never happened, attacking bereaved parents
        - Milo 'dog whistled' his followers to attack actress Leslie Jones in the wake of controversy over the movie Ghost Busters
    - Legally: the government can't block your free speech, but social media platforms can do what they want
- Did Facebook do the right thing in banning Alex and Milo?
- How do we balance one person's right to free speech and another person's right to be free from harassment?
- How do you feel about the fact that Alex and Milo are banned from most of the internet?
    - Is this different than people just banned from one platform?

IV. Work on Class Activity 1 on your own to arrive at an answer. After that, present the views you together came up with to the rest of the section. TA to moderate the discussion. (15 min)

V. TA to inform the students that Homework Assignment III (http://www.munmund.net/courses/spring2022/cs3001c/Assignment_III.pdf) is now available on the course website and due in a week. TA to answer any questions about it. (5 min)