CS 3001-A: Computing, Society & Professionalism

Munmun De Choudhury | Associate Professor | School of Interactive Computing

Week 1: Welcome

January 8, 2024

Introduction

- ↗ Instructor
  - ↗ Munmun De Choudhury (www.munmund.net)
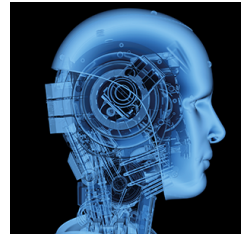 - ↗ munmund@gatech.edu
  - ↗ Office: CODA 1576B

A Little Bit About Myself...

Computational and AI artifacts for social good
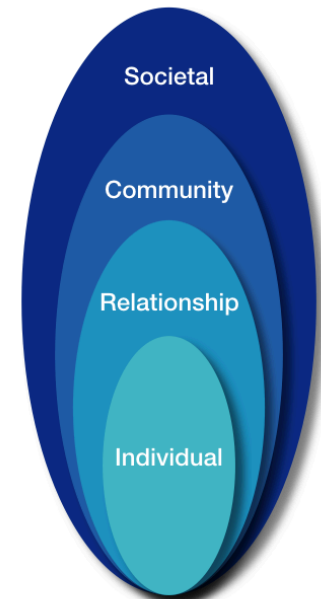Understand and improve wellbeing
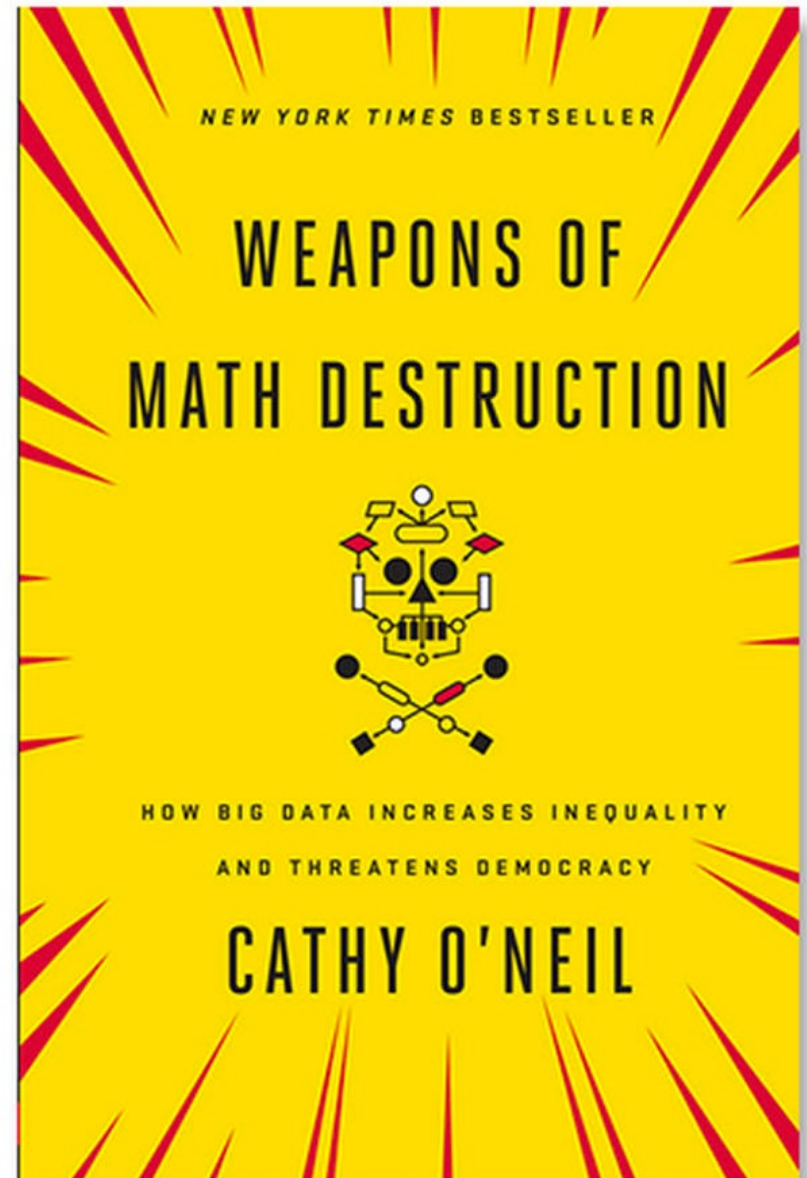
Social Media + Human/Stakeholder-Centered AI + Interdisiplinary + Theory Centered

The story of Sarah Wysocki, a popular and by all accounts successful 5th grade teacher in Washington, D.C., who was fired by an algorithm

Cathy O'Neil is a data scientist and author of the blog mathbabe.org.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

WEAPONS OF MATH DESTRUCTION

HOW BIG DATA INCREASES INEQUALITY
AND THREATENS DEMOCRACY

CATHY O'NEIL

Learning Objectives

What will you learn by the end of the course?

Assignments and Grading

↗ Recitation Section Attendance and Participation - 15%

↗ Homeworks – 25%

  ↗ 4 homeworks due between January 22 and April 10

↗ In-Class Midterm - 15% (on Feb 28)

↗ Term Paper - 25%

  ↗ Deliverables due between February 14 and April 22

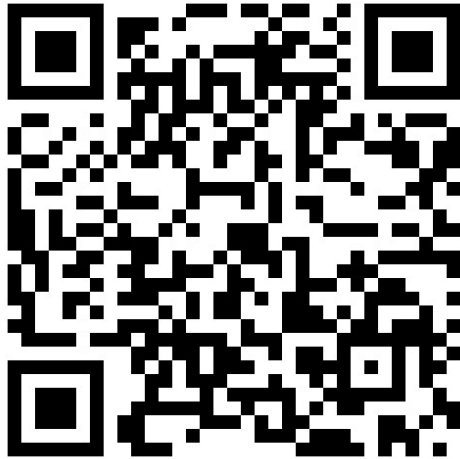↗ In-Class Final Exam - 20% (TBD based on final exam schedule)

Grading Criteria and Logistics

Course Format

↗ In-person lectures (unless otherwise noted beforehand)

↗ In-person recitation sections (unless otherwise noted beforehand)

  ↗ Small synchronous discussion groups of ~10 students each

    ↗ Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

↗ Office hours of both instructor and TA will be via Zoom

  ↗ By appointment with the instructor

  ↗ Note section Canvas for your TA's office hours

Class Resources

↗ Course webpage:
http://www.munmund.net/CS3001A_Spring2024.html

↗ Syllabus*:
http://www.munmund.net/CS3001A_Spring2024.html

↗ Canvas for assignment, term paper deliverable, and section discussion material submissions

↗ * Subject to minor changes. Always check the class schedule online

Piazza

➚ Piazza for and discussion and announcements

➚ Piazza sign up:
https://piazza.com/gatech/spring2024/cs3001a

➚ Piazza course link:
https://piazza.com/gatech/spring2024/cs3001a/home

Required Texts

↗ Ethics for the Information Age*, 8th, by Michael Quinn

↗ Articles listed on the course website
  ↗ accessed through GT library and GT VPN.
  ↗ Accessed online.

* (You may rent an electronic copy rather than buying it.)

Lecture Attendance

➶ You are expected to be in the class to follow the material and the discussions in the recitation sections.

➶ Your section TA will ask about your lecture attendance at your weekly section

Recitation Section Attendance

↗ Recitation section attendance is required. Please remember to sign the attendance sheet.

↗ Please do not sign the attendance sheet if you are more than 15 minutes late.

↗ If you need to miss class for a legitimate reason (COVID-19 or other sickness, job interview, personal emergency), please send email to the instructor and your section's TA **before** class.

  ↗ Emergency, religious holidays etc.

  ↗ No penalty for legitimate absences

↗ You may miss up to two recitation classes for any reason, without it affecting your grade.

↗ Attendance scoring starts from next week!

Lecture, Section Participation

Meeting with the instructor and/or TAs

➚ Office hours of the instructor: By appointment; Zoom link on main course Canvas

➚ Section TA office hours information on section Canvas

➚ Best way to reach me – email
  - ➚ Allow 24-48 hours to receive a reply

➚ Questions regarding deliverables asked less than 48 hours to the deadline may not be answered on time
  - ➚ Tip: Start early!

Late Policy and Honor Code

Significance

What is ethics?

Out in the desert you are driving. You can see in all directions for miles. No one else is around. Do you stop at a stop sign? Why or why not?

The Stop Sign ↗

Revisiting "what is ethics"

↗ Ethics is the field of study that is concerned with questions of value, that is, judgments about what human behavior is "good" or "bad" in any given scenario.

↗ Ethics are the standards, values, morals, principles, etc which are used to base one's decisions or actions on; often there is no clear "right" or "wrong" answer

Discussion Point: Free speech and online harassment

↗ Should cyberbullying be a criminal offense?

   ↗ three reasons why it should be.

   ↗ three reasons why it should not be.

Some Case Examples We Will Consider in the Class Going Forward

Difference between legal and ethical

Examples

↗ *Illegal but ethical:* Civil disobedience against unjust laws during the Civil Rights Movement; letting someone else use your prescription asthma inhaler when they are having an attack; euthanasia

↗ *Legal but unethical:* Lying to boss to take a sick leave because you have to take care of your kid; same sex marriage laws in some countries

↗ *Both illegal and unethical:* murder, sexual assault

Next Class

↗ Materials and readings on the class website – The Therac-25 controversy

↗ Try to identify three things:

    ↗ People: who was involved? what did they do? what might they've done differently?

    ↗ Policies: government; corporate

Teaching Assistants

Head Teaching Assistant:
Sadie Palmer [A17]

Teaching Assistants:
Aashna Doshi [A27, A35]
Akhilesh Sivaganesan [A18]
Alexander Goebel [A16, A33]
Anish Manne [A12, A22]
Ayman Ismail [A07, A15]
Chinar Dankhara [A08, A30]
Jonathan Satterfield [A09, A13]
Mehar Johal [A34]

Niharika Gali [A05, A29]
Parth Desai [A19, A26]
Ritvik Ramakrishnan [A10, A23]
Rithvik Rajavelu [A21, A25]
Shreya Santhanagopalan [A20, A28]
Sushree Pani [A02, A32]
Swathi Ram [A04, A06]
Vedic Panda [A03, A24]
Yash Gupta [A01, A11]
Yesha Jigneshkumar Thakkar [A14, A31]