

## CS 3001-A Term Paper Proposal (Spring 2024)

<b>Due:</b>	February 14, 2024, 11:59pm Eastern Time
<b>Format</b>	Approximately 3 pages, double spaced, 12 point font
<b>Logistics</b>	Submit as a PDF on Canvas
<b>Grading criteria</b>	Quality and appropriateness of the chosen ethical dilemma
	Completeness
	Writing
	Quality of references
	Quality of argument
Late policy applies	
<b>Grade</b>	30 points (3% of your overall grade)

For your term paper, you will research an issue about computing and society that **you are initially undecided about**. The eventual purpose of this term paper writing is to enable you arrive at a stance on this issue and support your position. In this first part, you will be required to present a proposal for this investigation. The proposal should contain the following items:

- 1) Identify the issue you have chosen
- 2) Explain why you are interested in the issue
- 3) Explain why you are undecided about the issue, and
- 4) Identify a few initial information sources you will examine to begin to research the issue. List at least four distinct refereed sources<sup>1</sup>: journal articles or conference papers

Make sure to pick a topic that others have written about, that is, there is existing research. You are being graded on how well you research the issue and cite the literature about it. If there's little to cite, you will have trouble with this assignment.

Here is a list of computing and society oriented argumentative topics – you can pick something from here if you like, but, by no means, this is an exhaustive list—you can pick another topic that you care about:

- a. The increasing use of social media in personal, business and marketing fields: is the use too much? Is there a thing called “social media addiction”?
- b. Does using Facebook too much make us depressed?
- c. Has the use of smartphones from a young age decreased the desire to go outside and have a face-to-face interaction? Are smartphones making us lonely?
- d. Is it a good thing that we are increasingly using robots in our lives?
- e. The use of drones to conduct projects outside of the military. Is it a good idea?
- f. Self-driving cars: is that a good thing for us?
- g. Face recognition technology: should we encourage this line of research?
- h. Should tech companies assume social responsibility: e.g., should Facebook have done something about bots and mis- / dis-information (colloquially fake news) before the 2016 and 2020 U.S. Presidential elections?
- i. Was the deplatforming of Donald Trump from all major social media platforms ethical? Was his replatforming in 2023 ethical?

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<sup>1</sup> A refereed source is something that has gone through peer review--like a journal article or most conference papers. Books and journalistic articles do not count. For each reference you provide, please provide the full, correct reference in APA format.

- j. Should we use AI technologies in higher education? Can the use of such AI decrease the value of face-to-face learning?

We will send you comments on your proposal. In some cases, we will ask students to considerably revise and submit a new proposal. Revised proposals should be submitted as soon as possible; one week from the date we ask you to revise is the latest possible.

Either before or after these proposals are due, you may email the professor or your TA to make an appointment to discuss your topic. Or find us after class.