

Syllabus Fall 2020

789: Big Data, Algorithms, and Society

Fall 2020

Monday 10:40 to 1:25p

Instructor:

Zeynep Tufekci, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Email: zeynep@unc.edu

Phone: (919) 962-0599 (not the best method!)

Office Hours:

By email and zoom!

Course Description:

This course examines emerging topics in the fast developing field big data, algorithms and society.

Expectations

The success of this class depends on your active engagement. I expect everyone to come to class not just having read the assigned readings or viewed the videos, but also to have thought about the topics and be ready to discuss them. This is a new field and creative, bold thinking is encouraged; on the other hand, be ready and willing to defend your opinions with empirical and philosophical support. We expect people in this class to disagree and to respectfully argue different points of view. The goal is for all of us to emerge having learned more than just the content of the readings.

There will be four components to your assignments in this class. First, you (along with at least one more classmate) will be responsible for leading the class discussion online in the Sakai discussion boards for one of the weeks on the syllabus. Second, you are expected to write a short reflection post in Sakai every week (about 400 words.) Third, you will be asked to write a paper due at the end of the

class and you will make a 10 minute presentation on the paper you have written. Fourth, you are expected to find an example of a

topic we are discussing or have already discussed and bring it to the attention of the class. For example, in

discussing the privacy, you might bring a newspaper item, a personal story, a fictional example of privacy

implication of information technologies to the attention of the class. You will make a brief (5 minute) presentation to the class.

Course Requirements:

- 1. Reading/Viewing/Participation:** Students are expected to complete assigned readings and viewings before coming to class. You are also expected to participate in class discussion on Sakai about the readings. This is **not** a lecture class and you are expected to be participating in all aspects of the class. 40% of your grade comes from participation in the class and offline reaction/reflection papers.
- 2. Attendance:** Attendance is required and what makes the class work. This is a synchronous class. You may miss one class without any penalty in grades; after that, I will subtract 3% for each class that you miss without prior approval or significant reason. Of course, given the circumstances, there will be understanding for pandemic-related problems that are unexpected. However, if you don't expect to be able to regularly attend the class at its designated time, this is not the best class for you this semester.
- 3. Final Paper:** All students will produce a final paper on a topic. The final paper should be 20 pages or about 5,000 words for graduate students and 10 pages, or 2500 words for undergraduate students. Topic must be cleared with the instructor. The paper will be due on the day of the final of the class. More instructions on the format of the paper will be. I am open to considering non-paper type final projects (software, videos, web pages) but these must be cleared with me in advance. Keep in mind that a non-paper final project needs to demonstrate the same kind of qualities I am looking for in a paper: conceptual depth; analytic clarity; interesting and thoughtful raising of topics related to the class topics. This is 40% of your grade.

4. **Presentation:** You will be expected to make a 10 minute presentation about the topic of your paper to the class at the end of the class. You will be graded on clarity of presentation, keeping to the time limit, keeping it interesting and convincing us that this is a significant and interesting topic. This is 10% of your grade.

5. **Example/Case Study:** You will be expected to provide at least one example of an event/news item / case study / fictional example / personal story that illustrates in a meaningful manner one or more of the topics related to the class. More interesting examples provoking questions and meaningful discussion will be graded higher. Try to pick something that goes beyond a trivial example but one whose significance becomes more apparent in light of the class readings or discussions. This is 10% of your grade.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability, please inform the instructor and appropriate accommodations will be provided. Accommodations and services are provided by Disability Services and they can be reached by calling 919-962-8300 or <http://accessibility.unc.edu/>

Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

All students must follow the UNC Honor Code. You must follow standard guidelines for citation, not use other people's ideas, work or sentences without crediting them, and you must not receive or provide unauthorized assistance. Your work must be yours! Here's a tutorial on plagiarism which you can use to help you make decisions: <http://www2.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagiarism/>

When in doubt, consult with the professor or the class assistant. Plagiarism will result in failing the class. More information can be found at <http://studentconduct.unc.edu> including the following outline of the UNC honor code:

"The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has had a student-led honor system for over 100 years. Academic integrity is at the heart of Carolina and we all are responsible for upholding the ideals of honor and integrity. The student-led Honor System is responsible for adjudicating any suspected violations of the Honor Code and all suspected instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the honor system. Information, including your responsibilities as a student is outlined in the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance. Your full participation and observance of the Honor Code is expected."

Schedule for INLS 690 Fall 2018: Big Data, Algorithms and Society

Professor: Zeynep Tufekci

Mon Aug 10 Introduction to Class

Mon Aug 17 Surveillance Capitalism, Algorithms and Big Data: Overview

Mon Aug 24 Pandemic and Tech

Mon Aug 31 Open topic TBD

Mon Sep 7 LABOR DAY

Mon Sep 14 Algorithms, Models and Machine Learning

Mon Sep 21 Business Models and Engagement

Mon Sep 28 Algorithmic Public Sphere: Misinformation, Fake News and More!

Mon Oct 5 Science and Big Data with special focus on the pandemic

Mon Oct 12 UNIVERSITY DAY! Or War, Weapons and Killer Robots

Mon Oct 19 Artificial Intelligence and Skill, Work and Employment

Mon Oct 26 Algorithmic Culture

Mon Nov 2 Affective Algorithms: Automating Care

Mon Nov 9 Possible Paths: learning from the First Industrial Revolution and Looking to Future

Mon Nov 16 Presentations