Group Project – Society and Computers

Computer history is filled with questions of individual rights, property, and questions of freedom. This project will ask each group of 4 students to tackle a specific aspect of these broader societal issues. Over a several week period the teams will develop the different issues, create and present a whitepaper document that outline the issues. The document will be a group document that broadly discusses the issue, but also has sections authored by each individual presenting a specific subsection of our society. These subsections will breakout to: consequentialist-policy, non-consequentialist-policy, consequentialist-public, and non-consequentialist-public. Consequentialist/Non-Consequentialist can also be interpreted as conservative/liberal, and/or policy/public can also be interpreted as governmental/electorate.

Goal: The goal of this project is to come to a nuanced understanding of these issues, but also understand how they relate to other similar issues. Additionally, to gain an appreciation how both government and members of the electorate (or members of a similar two-tiered societal relationship) view these decisions.

Submission: The overall document will need to be minimally 2,500 words, with one fifth of this document to be a specific individual’s contribution focusing on one of the four possible breakouts, aka the position paper. (This contribution should be identified as developed by a specific individual.) The remaining document should be a collective effort. The presentation should capture the whitepaper document, with each member of the group contributing to the presentation. Final drafts of both the whitepaper and the presentation will be submitted to the Moodle as a PDF by the Friday the last day of class at 11:55pm. A preview draft of the whitepaper must be submitted the Friday of week 13, this will be provided to another group for evaluation.

Other Group Evaluation: Each group will be evaluated by a different group based on the whitepaper submitted on Friday of week 13 and the group’s presentation during week 14. This evaluation should be submitted no later than the weekend before exams. The quality of this evaluation will contribute to the evaluator’s grade for this project. See, review requirements below.

Topics:

- Privacy,
- Freedom of Speech,
- Intellectual Property,
- Crime, and
- War-Acts/Power-Projection
General requirements and info:

• The submitted projects should clearly be about computers.
• Media that consumes a significant amount of presentation time will result in a percentage reduction in grade equal to the time of the media relative to the 15-minutes of the presentation.
• A time-line of the major events in your group topic.
• A 500-word group-proposal of how the group will organize their whitepaper/presentation.
• Whitepaper overview, a group collaboration of minimally 2,500 words.
• Your work should be referenced and can include resources like Newsweek, Time, and The Wall Street Journal. For the position papers, the editorial opinion pages of major newspapers make for good references.
• Wikipedia is a good source for getting dates right, but nothing beats the news media of the time.
• All materials will be submitted in PDF format.
• Use of first person should be avoided.

Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Wednesday</td>
<td>3/16/2015</td>
<td>Assignment Distributed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Monday</td>
<td>4/11/2015</td>
<td>Major Event Timeline and 500 word group-proposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Friday</td>
<td>4/29/2015</td>
<td>Whitepaper Pre-Final Draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Mon-Fri</td>
<td>5/2, 5/4, 5/6</td>
<td>20 Minute Presentations (2 presentations each day).</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Friday</td>
<td>5/6/2015</td>
<td>Submit Final Draft/Whitepaper and Presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Sunday</td>
<td>5/8/2015</td>
<td>Review of other group’s work.</td>
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Other Group Evaluation Process:

1. Read through the pre-final draft whitepaper, either individually or as a group. Depending on time, you might even discuss things collectively over email to see where the reviewing groups perception is of the submitted work.

2. Watch the presentation considering the following:
   a. Did the group present the materials to further synthesize the ideas and not just read the pre-draft?
   b. Did the group give a good background of the topic to frame the different viewpoints?
   c. Did the group adequately present the different competing viewpoints such that one can see how these different points of view interact?

3. Meet as a group and try to come to a common agreement on these three points, identified above.

4. Develop a document that captures the reviewing group’s opinion about the presented work and provides advice what could have been done better. If one or members disagrees or wishes to extend the advice, they should also include an additional paragraph describing their alternate perspective. Note, if no one can agree, then everyone should be writing a separate paragraph.
   a. This does not need to be a long document, but it should be complete.

5. Submit your review to the Moodle item “Evaluation of Other Group.”