## Basic Information

**Instructor:** Spencer Williams (sw1918@uw.edu)

**Course Name:** INFO 360: Design Methods

**Location:** <Sample>

**Time:** <Sample>

**Office hours**: <Sample>

**Slack invite link:** <Sample>

**Link to your JupyterHub:** <Sample>

**Lab Times:**

AA: <Sample>

AB: <Sample>

AC: <Sample>

AD: <Sample>

AE: <Sample>

AF: <Sample>

## Introduction

We live in a world where social media influences our lives in direct and indirect ways: from snapchat and youtube to twitter bots and cyber-bullying. In order to fully engage in this new reality, you need a level of digital literacy that most college graduates don't receive.

This is a new version of this course! We will be using a new online textbook: Social Media, Ethics, and Automation. The textbook is still being updated!

This course will cover topics of social media history (e.g., BBS, MySpace, Facebook, 4chan), design (e.g., posts, replies, friends, follower, content moderation), and, phenomenon (e.g., trolling, parasocial relationships, context collapse). In covering social media topics, we will explore the ethical implications inherent in the design and use of social media platforms (e.g., privacy, consent, authenticity, harassment, free speech). To further explore the ethical decisions being made in the design and use of social media platforms, we will learn automation through basic of Python programming (e.g., variables, conditionals, loops, functions, APIs, data

structures) and we will modify programs that interact with social media platforms (e.g., reddit bots).

After finishing this course, you'll be empowered to engage ethically in a world dominated by the decisions of social media companies, programmers, and users.

## Communication

Slack will be the primary communication platform for this class. To join the Slack channel for this class, use the invite link on the Canvas site.

If you have questions you think the whole class can benefit from, feel free to ask in the general chat or feedback channel. Otherwise, you can feel free to direct message me, or reach me via email. I cannot guarantee I'll respond during the weekend, but I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours during the work week, between 9am-5pm.

## Class Structure

### Lectures

You will have readings to do before class, and then class time will mostly be used for class discussions, design activities, for programming demos, and programming practice times.

Attendance is highly encouraged so you can participate in discussions and get help on programming exercises. You will be graded on attendance (we assume you are participating in the discussions and other activities), but if you are feeling sick or for some other reason can't attend, the lectures will be recorded, and we will provide an alternate way of participating (generally submitted your thoughts on discussion, design, etc.)

### Labs

Labs will be time for you to work on the programming practice problems, and for those doing the optional writing credit, a chance to get peer feedback.

## Assignments and Grading

In this course, you will be graded on the following work:

### Reading Reflections (10%):

Before each lecture, there will be an assignment for reading. You will be required to leave multiple comments. This will be graded on completion.

Note: We will automatically drop the lowest 2 reading reflection scores, so you can skip 2 and still get full credit.

**In-class design activities and discussions (attendance) (10%)**

During lectures and labs, we will have design activities and discussions, generally in small groups. If you attend class, you will get credit for this, but we expect you to be participating. If for some reason you can't make it to class, we will let you submit your thoughts on the questions or activities separately to get full credit.

Note: We will automatically drop the lowest 2 attendance scores, so you can skip 2 and still get full credit.

**Programming practice (there will be some time in class for this) (15%):**

You will be given a set of programming exercises for you to work on with time in class to work on it. You will be required to turn in evidence that you worked on the exercises and answer a couple short questions. This will be graded on completion (e.g., evidence that you worked on all the exercises, not necessarily correct).

Note: We will automatically drop the lowest programming practice exercise score, so you can skip 1 and still get full credit.

**Homework assignments (programming and reflections) (40%):**

You will be assigned several programming assignments throughout the quarter involving social media. In addition to set requirements we have for you to complete there will also be an ethical reflection on the program you wrote.

Note: You will get 4 free late days for turning in programming assignments late (you can use them all at once, or spread them out between projects). After that you will lose 10% per day late down to 50%, then as long as you turn in the assignment by the last day of class, you can get 50% credit.

**Final Group Project and Presentation (25%):**

You will work in groups throughout the second half quarter to complete a programming project of your own design related to social media. Your group will turn in a proposal for what you want to make, and then on the last day of lecture you will have a chance to demo your project and reflect on the ethical issues involved.

**Extra Credit (3%):**

You can get up to 3% extra credit for answering 3 questions from other students on Teams (1% extra credit per answer).

**No Final Exam**

There will be no final exam. The class ends on the last day of lecture.

**Optional Writing Credit: Ethical analysis of automation on social media:**

This class allows you to get a writing credit by doing additional work. For this class, you will be given the opportunity to write a paper on a topic of your choosing that does an ethical analysis of some use of automation on social media (e.g., bots, recommendation algorithms, design of the user interface, etc.). You will have to turn in a draft of the paper, and then take account of the feedback from that to turn in a final paper.

**Extenuating Circumstances:**

If any unexpected life events prevent you from completing work and require more than the allowances already listed, please reach out via email explaining your circumstances (*only share what you're comfortable with, I won't pry and I know these situations can be private / personal). That being said, the vast majority of circumstances will fall under the policies detailed above, so don't reach out until you have used all those up.

## Other Policies and Accommodations

**Face Coverings**

Please refer here for up-to-date UW guidance on face coverings. In general, we recommend face coverings in class to limit the spread of COVID-19.

**Religious Accommodations**

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).

**Conduct**

The University of Washington Student Conduct Code (WAC 478-121) defines prohibited academic and behavioral conduct and describes how the University holds students accountable as they pursue their academic goals. Allegations of misconduct by students may be referred to the appropriate campus office for investigation and resolution. More information can be found online at https://www.washington.edu/studentconduct/

**Disability Resources**

Your experience in this class is important to us. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal

and state law. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please activate your accommodations via myDRS so we can discuss how they will be implemented in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), contact DRS directly to set up an Access Plan. DRS facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations. Contact DRS at disability.uw.edu