

DR. SARAH ABRAHAM

CS349

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# COURSE INTRODUCTION

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# WHAT THIS COURSE IS ABOUT

- ▶ What does contemporary issues mean?
- ▶ What is computer science?
- ▶ Why should you care?

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## WHAT THIS COURSE WANTS TO ACHIEVE

- ▶ Inform and motivate ethical action in the world
  - ▶ Personal and public awareness
  - ▶ Personal and professional conduct
- ▶ Encourage good oral and written communication skills
  - ▶ Clear, concise writing
  - ▶ Clear, concise public speaking

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# COURSE WORK

- ▶ Weekly (short), and Bi-weekly (long) essays
  - ▶ Should be short (250-500 words), or long (750-900 words)
  - ▶ Can express personal views but remain professional and discussable (no unsupported arguments)
- ▶ Peer-review of 1 (long) or 3 (short) other essays
  - ▶ Should include helpful feedback for improving writing clarity
  - ▶ Will be graded on your feedback
- ▶ Daily presentations of work and/or current events
- ▶ Midterm paper
- ▶ Final project, including report/long essay and a presentation

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## COURSE FORMAT

- ▶ At the beginning of every class, students will be chosen/volunteer to present on their essays, essays they peer-reviewed, or current events
- ▶ Background material on that day's topic
- ▶ Class discussion of related issues
  - ▶ Participation is expected
  - ▶ Instapoll on Canvas used to poll opinions and take attendance

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# COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- ▶ Behave according to the highest standards of ethical conduct
- ▶ Things you should **not** do:
  - ▶ Plagiarize
    - ▶ Copying ideas or direct quotes without giving credit to originator
    - ▶ Faking essay content or blatant word padding
  - ▶ Ad hominem attacks
    - ▶ Criticizing the person rather than the argument

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# SAFE SPACE?

- ▶ This is not a safe space
  - ▶ We will talk about difficult issues
- ▶ But it's also not an unsafe space
  - ▶ You will be respected as an individual and peer by your classmates
- ▶ ...basically you are expected to behave as a polite, professional, empathetic person
- ▶ Ask yourself:
  - ▶ Am I being kind?
  - ▶ What am I accomplishing by saying what I'm saying?

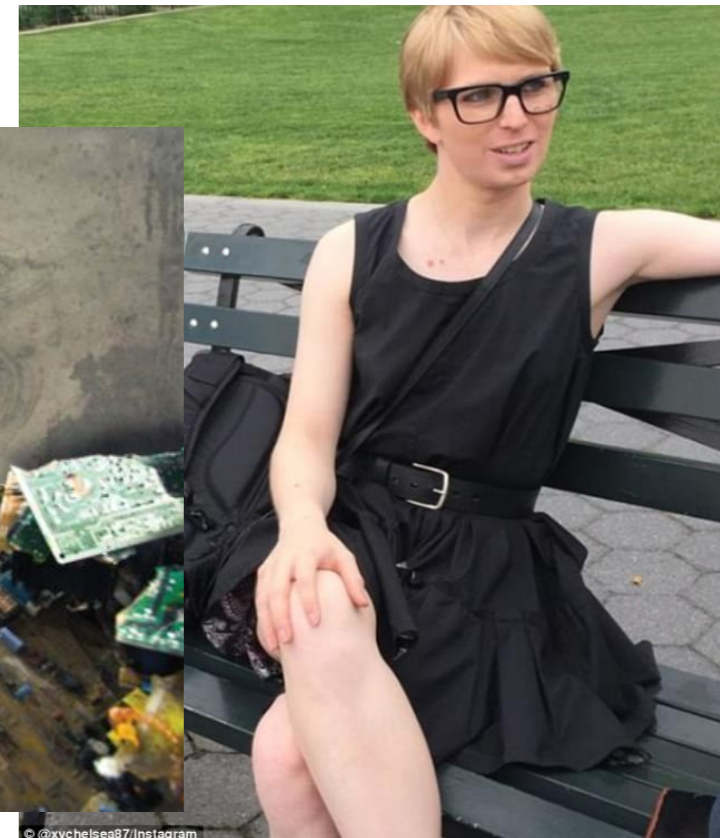
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## SO LET'S TALK ETHICS!

- ▶ What systems of ethics do you follow?
- ▶ How do your beliefs impact your behavior in the world?
- ▶ What are you hoping to get out of life?



# WHAT ARE SOME COMPUTER SCIENCE ISSUES?



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# TOPICS WE WILL DISCUSS

- ▶ Ethics and writing
- ▶ Technology in the context of:
  - ▶ Business, and law
  - ▶ Government, and law
  - ▶ Personal life, society, and law
- ▶ Technology and the future

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## THIS INCLUDES ISSUES RELATING TO...

- ▶ Security
- ▶ Privacy
- ▶ Liability
- ▶ Personal conduct
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Globalization
- ▶ Etc...

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**QUESTIONS?**