A. **CHINA: Facial Recognition, Social Credit, and the Authoritarian State**
   1. VIEW: [Next-Level Surveillance: China Embraces Facial Recognition](#), Wall Street Journal, Jun2 2017, 5:03
      - What are some of the uses of Facial Recognition in china?
      - How is the government-owned Chinese search giant, Baidu (the equivalent of Google), using Facial Recognition?
      - What are the arguments in this video FOR facial recognition?
      - What are some arguments/privacy concerns AGAINST facial recognition?
      - What is "Deep Learning"?
      - Once you learn about "Deep Learning," can you recall [Facebook's 10 year challenge](#), that asked people to upload their profile pic from exactly 10 years ago? Doesn't this challenge and FB's very possible ulterior motives feel a bit creepy now?
      - What does xx the WSJ correspondent, say about Terms of Service agreements for social media & smartphones?
      - How many surveillance cameras are installed in China? How many by 2020?
      - What is an example of how the advertising industry is using facial recognition in China?
        - It serves up ads according to a person's age and gender.
      - How does facial recognition make videos now searchable?
      - Will the facial recognition software be able to determine if it's a "hack" or a true person?

      COMPANY MENTIONED: [BAIDU](#)
      COMPANY MENTIONED: [TENCENT](#)
      COMPANY PROFILED: [SENSETIME](#) (the corporate video on their homepage is incredibly unsettling….)

   2. VIEW: [Smile to enter: China embraces facial recognition technology](#), France 24 English, Sept. 2017. 9:34
      - How many Chinese surveillance cameras in 2017; 170 million.
      - How many cameras will there be in 2020 (now): 450 million
      - How do you get toilet paper? (and how much do you get?)
      - How do you get into a dorm?
      - How do you track runaway criminals?
      - Fabrice Epelboin, [Sciences PO Paris](#), founding member of CyberSecurity firm "[Yogosha](#)"

              Is he a reliable source of information?
              What does he say about the [U.S. 4th Amendment](#)?
              What does he say about the "**global surveillance state**"?

What does he say about democracy?

COMPANY MENTIONED: FACE ++--Skeleton detection is officially launched.

Parent company is MEGVII TECHNOLOGY.

3. VIEW: China: facial recognition and state control | The Economist, Oct 24, 2018, 5:41

- How is facial recognition being used (towards what kinds of services)?
- YITU--what is their slogan…..
- Tracks emotions and sexuality
- How many surveillance cameras are installed, and how many in the next few years?
- What sort of misdemeanors are controlled through facial recognition?
- What kind of new equipment are police officers in China now wearing
- Who is Hong Zhenkuai and what does he say about the Chinese government?
- Who are the Uighurs in China?

COMPANY MENTIONED: YITU.

(YITU's company slogan: "Building a safer, smarter and healthier world")

4. LISTEN: The Chinese Surveillance State, Part 1 - Paul Mozur, The New York Times, May 6 2019, 23:22 (THE DAILY PODCAST). HERE IS THE TRANSCRIPT.
- How many cameras did Mozur pass/notice on his way to the NYTimes news bureau in just 2 subway stops?
- What happened in 2009 that made the Chinese military mobilize against the Uighurs?
- Why has the Internet been shut off in the Xinjiang province?
- How prevalent are "convenience police centers" in the Xinjiang province?
- What are "re-education camps"?
- What is collected in the "compulsory medical checkups"?
- Besides the Uighurs, what other kinds of lists are the Chinese creating?

5. LISTEN: The Chinese Surveillance State, Part 2 - The New York Times, May 6 2019, 28:28 (THE DAILY PODCAST). HERE IS THE TRANSCRIPT.
- Who is Ferkat Jawdat and what is his family's story?
- What happens at the educational camps?
- What other family members besides the mom in China were sent to the camp?
- What happens when Ferkat Jawdat begins to speak out in the U.S.?
- What happens after Ferkat Jawdat meets with Secretary of State Pompeo?
- Note how the podcast explains how the Chinese authoritarian state is very effective at suppressing the Uighurs at home, but also those who have left China--the prison state has extended well beyond the prison.
- Why do western democracies and the Muslim world not speak out more vociferally about China's mistreatment of the Uighurs?

6. READER:[China's Watchful Eye: Beijing bets on facial recognition big drive for total surveillance](#). Simon Denyer, *The Washington Post,* January 7, 2018.

   - What is "Xu Liang"?
   - What is the purpose of gathering so much surveillance video evidence?
   - What is a "social credit" score?
   - Where does the slogan "The masses have sharp eyes" come from?
   - What's an example of the broad range of companies in China listed in the article now using facial recognition?
   - How would you like if UNI used a facial scanner to detect if you were bored in the classroom?

   COMPANIES MENTIONED: [CLOUDWALK](#) , [SENSETIME](#), [HUAWEI (Safe Cities Technology)](#)

7. READ: [China's plan to organize its society relies on 'big data' to rate everyone](#) - The Washington Post, October 22, 2016.
   - Social credit/Internet+--what are some of the slogans associated with this "safe" and "wonderful" society?
   - What technology and data is involved in "Internet+" beyond surveillance cameras?
   - How will social credit scores limit/control social dissidents?
   - Note reference to *1984* (Big Brother) in this article.

8. READ: [In China, a Three-Digit Score Could Dictate Your Place in Society](#), WIRED, Dec. 14, 2017.
   Read up to this image (½ through the article)

   - How does Zhima Credit (or Sesame Credit) on Alipay work?
   - What is a [FICO score](#)in the US?
   - Note reference to *1984* (Orwellian) in this article.
   - Explain this: the Zhima Credit system "will ensure that the bad people in society don't have a place to go, while good people can move freely and without obstruction."

   COMPANIES MENTIONED:
   [ALIBABA](#) (the "Chinese Amazon" as if it had swallowed eBay, Apple News,

Groupon, American Express, Citibank, and YouTube). Alipay is a subsidiary, and operates like the entrypoint to Alibaba's many services.

TENCENT (a lot like Google and Facebook combined, with social media, videogame, music, and search combined. WeChat is a subsidiary.

9. VIEW: Netflix: Black Mirror Episode, "Nosedive" (Season 3, Episode 1) Watch the first 20 minutes or more--your choice, it's *really good, you may find it hard to stop*).
To watch Nosedive, you will need a Netflix account, or tune into the Zoom watch session I will arrange for **3/26, 9:30am**. Please contact me via email if you need to get into Zoom and I'll send you the link.
   ● How does she behave differently because she is being monitored socially? How isn't this good? Wouldn't you want people to be more polite with each other?
   ● How does Chester try to increase his score (and why did his score fall so low?)
   ● If she wants to live in her expensive dream condo community, how can she get a discount through the Prime Influencers' Program? What does this entail?
   ● Who is Naomi?
   ● How does Lacie's experience with social credit help you understand the Zhima Credit system in China?
   ● What about our own social system so dominated by social media?

B. USA/REST OF WORLD + THE CIRCLE

1. VIEW: Should you worry about Facial Recognition? AJ+/Al Jazeera, Correspondent Ahmed Shihad-Eldon, June 2018, 10:00.
   ● ==Draw comparisons between surveillance of the Muslim minority known as the Uighurs in China and the urban African American populations in the U.S. and other minority populations in places like London.==
   ● Recall that African American or minority neighborhoods are intensely surveilled with cameras (see Gov. Surveillance PPT, slides 21-28) in the U.S. and other countries.
   ● Note that accuracy is not a problem but is quickly being resolved with more data.

2. READ: Here's where the US government is using facial recognition technology to surveil Americans, By Shirin Ghaffary and Rani Molla, *Vox,* Dec 10, 2019
   ● Go into the Fight for the Future's "Ban Facial Recognition" map: where is Iowan the move towards citizen surveillance?
   ● What are police partnerships with Amazon "Ring"?
   ● What is Amazon Rekognition?

3. How the technologies we use are using Facial Recognition to increasingly spy on us:

- Facebook: **DeepFace,** launched in 2014, can determine whether two photographed faces belong to the same person, with an accuracy rate of 97.25%
- IBM and Microsoft. **FACE++** They have partnered with Megvii--huge Facial recognition tech firm based in China, mentioned above.
- Amazon: **Rekognition.** Amazon is using Rekognition to operate smart convenient "Amazon Go" stores without clerks.
- Google: **Vision**. Every time we use Captcha we are training Google's AI framework.
- Apple: **FaceID** launched on the iPhone X in 2017.
- **Zoom**: "free" video conferencing, but really the company is investing in voice and face tracking technology.

4. READ: *The Circle PART I, pp. 1-99:*--e-book may be available for download from your public library;
   READ: *The Circle PART II,* pp. 100-173
   VIEW:
   - The Circle Official Trailer;
   - Googleplex
   - Googleplex tour BBC

DAVE EGGERS
This is what Dave Eggers, author of *The Circle*, looks like. He is one of the most respected writers in the U.S. When he was writing the Circle (which was first published in 2014), he meant it to be *truly dystopian*; the only problem is that he had to keep revising b/c the future kept on catching up to him.

BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS IN YOUR 3-PERSON GROUP:
1. What connections are you drawing between this week's readings/viewings/listenings and Orwell's *1984*?
2. What is it like to be watched constantly? How do our behaviors change, for the good and for the bad?

3. How is facial recognition already employed through all the photos of your phone and the social media you use regularly? Can you think about every picture you take of yourself as another point of data used to profile you (both face and voice)?
4. What connections are you drawing from this week's readings/viewings/listenings, and *The Circle*?
   For example:
   - How does the Circle (company) compare to Google, Facebook, or Amazon?
   - How does TruYou compare to Alibaba's Alipay? Is there any value to be anonymous online? Or anywhere?
   - How are the Circle's SeaChange cameras and various surveillance computer screens and cameras throughout the office compound reminiscent of our increasing surveillance state?
   - The Gang of Forty and the Gang of Four?
   - How is PartiRank like Social Credit?
   - Why is there a "clusterf$%k in D.C.? How is The Circle being criticized?
   - How is the Health Check an invasion of privacy?
5. What connections can you make between *The Circle* and some of the readings we have done before Spring Break? (on technology, addiction, health, etc.)
6. 23andMe and Ancestry.com are cool (it's how my husband, Chris, who was adopted, found his biological father and mother). But, given what China is doing to the Uighurs--imprisoning relatives based on DNA samples to intimidate an entire , why oh why would we voluntarily give up our DNA. Do you think at some point we won't have a choice? Do you think this is something our democracy should fight for?