

CS 3001 Computers, Society, and Professionalism
Fall 2021
Section Discussion Guide
Week 3

I. Questions

- Go around the room with questions/observations/relevant news items

II. Politics of an artifact papers

- Discuss each person's paper
 - What artifact did you write your paper about?
 - Did anything surprise you as you did research about it?
 - Discuss response of student to each of the following questions. Do classmates agree or disagree with the analysis? In what ways?
 - What about its implications are intentional?
 - What about its implications are unintentional?
 - What could technology designers do in response to this?
 - What could policy makers do in response to this?
 - What can/should individuals do about this issue?

III. Review: Utilitarianism

- How are Act and Rule Utilitarianism different?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of each theory?
- Happiness is calculated for "morally relevant beings"
 - What is a "morally relevant being" for you? Why?

IV. Review: Kantianism

- What are the two formulations of the categorical imperative?
- Which do you think is more useful? Are they useful in different kinds of situations?
- How do you make a rule in Kant's theory?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of Kant's theories?

V. Discussion: the mailing list

- You've been offered a lucrative consulting job writing membership management software for a non-profit organization you passionately disagree with
 - Do you take the job?
 - What more do you want to know about the situation in order to make a decision?
 - Does it matter if your code is the same as anyone else's, or if you can write something more effective than other people's code?
 - In what ways do those factors shape your decision?
 - What do the ethical theories we've studied so far say about this dilemma?
- Now suppose you run a company that sells software online to whoever pays for it
 - Is this situation the same as the consulting one, or different? In what ways?

- Suppose a hate group using your software calls asking for tech support. Do you help them?
 - Why or why not?

VI. Third homework: applying ethical frameworks to a dilemma

- Discuss in detail
- You are graded on how well you show that you understand the theories (not on what you answer)

VII. Introduce the readings for next week

- Before section next week, put a quote from the Gilligan article on your section's Canvas (or Teams thread--whichever your section leader uses). Include the page number.
 - Make sure it's a quote that no one else has picked yet