

# Academic Discourse I

FS101

## Class Discussion: Black Mirror Scenarios

29<sup>th</sup> September  
Fall 2021

Oliver BONHAM-CARTER

# Stranger Than Fiction!



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VICE

Video

TV

News

Tech

Rec Room

Food

World News



**MOTHERBOARD**

TECH BY VICE

## 15 Years Ago, the Military Tried to Record Whole Human Lives. It Ended Badly

Before Facebook, the military tried to make an all knowing 'cyberdiary' called LifeLog.



By [David Axe](#)

May 21, 2018, 9:00am



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# Black Mirror

NETFLIX ORIGINAL

## BLACK MIRROR

2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons

Watch Season 5 Now

"The Entire History of You"

In the near future, everyone has access to a memory implant that records everything humans do, see and hear.

▶ NEXT EPISODE

+ MY LIST



Creators: Charlie Brooker

OVERVIEW

EPISODES

TRAILERS & MORE

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# Stranger Than Fiction!

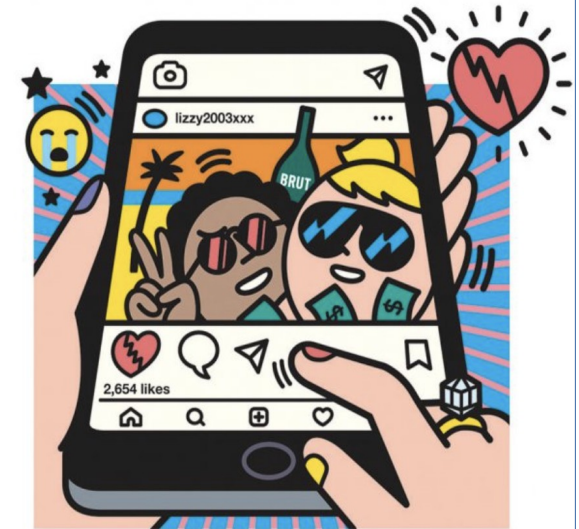
Artificial Intelligence Mar 4

## China's social credit system stopped millions of people from buying travel tickets



## L.A. Kids and Instagram Anxiety: "Social Media Is Destroying Our Lives"

9:45 AM PDT 8/18/2017 by Stephanie Chan



POLICY / US & WORLD / TECH

## EU should ban AI-powered citizen scoring and mass surveillance, say experts

*New recommendations have also been criticized as lacking enforceability*

By James Vincent | Jun 26, 2019, 7:30am EDT





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# Black Mirror

NETFLIX ORIGINAL

## BLACK MIRROR

2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons

Watch Season 5 Now

"Nosedive"

A woman desperate to boost her social media score hits the jackpot when she's invited to a swanky wedding. But the trip doesn't go as planned.

▶ NEXT EPISODE

+ MY LIST



Creators: Charlie Brooker

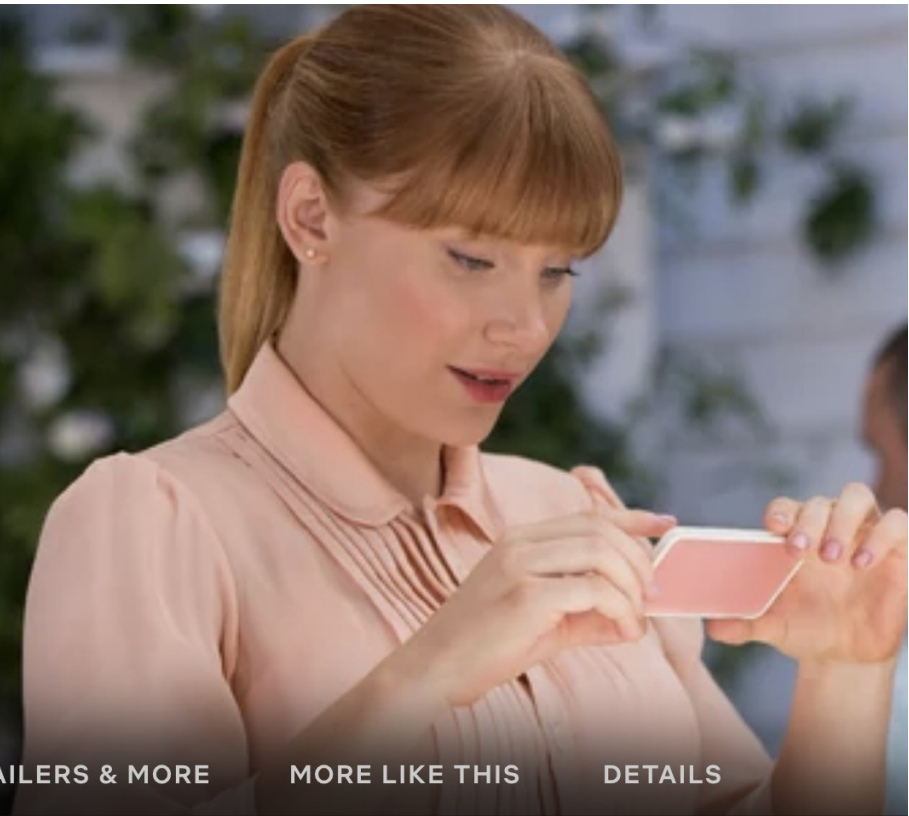
OVERVIEW

EPISODES

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# Stranger Than Fiction!

## More parents using GPS to track children but experts warn there could be consequences

By [Melanie Vujkovic](#)

Posted 3 Apr 2019, updated 3 Apr 2019

EDUCATION

## Privacy Experts Say The Trade-Offs Of Tech To Track Kids In School Aren't Worth It

August 26, 2019 · 4:22 PM ET  
Heard on All Things Considered

TEEN MONITORING

## The Best Teen Monitoring Apps Every Parent Needs

🕒 JANUARY 13, 2020 👤 ALEXANDRU TANASE

The New York Times

## Is Snooping on Teenagers Ever O.K.?





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# Black Mirror

N SERIES

## BLACK MIRROR

2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons

"Arkangel"

Worried about her daughter's safety, single mom Marie signs up for a cutting-edge device that monitors the girl's whereabouts -- and much more.

NEXT EPISODE

My List



Creators: Charlie Brooker

OVERVIEW

EPISODES

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# Stranger Than Fiction!

## MIT Technology Review

Humans and Technology / Quantified Self

## Digital immortality: How your life's data means a version of you could live forever

### 'When your heart stops beating, you'll keep tweeting': Controversial app that updates your Twitter feed from beyond the grave

- LivesOn analyses users' Twitter feeds to continue posting in the same style after they are dead
- Being developed by a London-based ad agency, who say 'it'll work better than a frozen head'
- It joins DeadSocial and If I Die in the market for apps offering social media services which continue after death

By DAMIEN GAYLE

PUBLISHED: 06:30 EDT, 20 February 2013 | UPDATED: 06:45 EDT, 20 February 2013



109  
View comments

Last Updated: 7th January, 2021 16:28 IST

## Artificial Intelligence Can Now Help You Speak To Deceased Family And Friends; Here's How

Marking another scientific marvel, researchers have developed an artificial intelligence technology that could allow people to communicate with their loved ones

Written By **Riya Baibhawi**







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# Black Mirror

NETFLIX ORIGINAL

## BLACK MIRROR

2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons

Watch Season 5 Now

"Be Right Back"

29 of 48m

After learning about a new service that lets people stay in touch with the deceased, a lonely, grieving Martha reconnects with her late lover.

▶ RESUME

+ MY LIST



Creators: Charlie Brooker

OVERVIEW

EPISODES

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# Discuss Amongst Yourselfes!

- 1. Brainstorm a near future technology based on a topic of your choice. It should be close enough that it seems like a plausible future. What is the technology and how does it relate to daily living?
- 2. What are the potential social implications and/or ethical issues and/or regulatory challenges with this technology?
- 3. What do you think might be a cautionary tale related to this technology? How could this technology be exploited to impact others, environmental conditions or animal lives?
- 4. Describe the worst that can happen if this tale became a reality?
- 5. What is a Black Mirror-type story-line this tale?
- 6. Create a poster-slide for the episode you described above and include its Google Docs link or presentation file with this deliverable.



# Example Topics 1

- Algorithmic Bias
- Recommender Systems
- Self-Driving Cars
- Government surveillance
- Censorship
- Free speech
- Internet of things
- Predictive policing
- Facial recognition/analysis



# Example Topics 2

- Social media privacy
- Data privacy
- Online dating
- Robots/AI
- Intellectual property
- Online harassment
- Fake news/misinformation
- Job loss due to automation
- The digital divide





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# Format Your Poster Like...



Add Title of Episode

Add your team's  
synopsis of your  
episode.



Choose a graphic for your work!



# Assignment 4:

*Writing assignment* for Black Mirror-type synopsis

As a group project, you are to write a short plot of an episode of Black Mirror. In your work, you are to address some searching questions about the use of technology in your episode plot.

- **Note:** get into groups of two (2), have one person “accept” the repository assignment and then give group a name.
- Then, the second member can select the group to join from the link.
- **GitHub Group Classroom Repository.**
- **Stop do not click just yet!**
  - <https://classroom.github.com/g/M5Ga4eSC>
- **Deliverables** (see writing/reflection.md of repo):
  - Written: create one plot, respond to questions, make poster slide for episode to discuss in next class.

**THINK**