Ethics Position Statement

Individual Assignment CME

This assignment involves developing a comprehensive ethics position statement that addresses the issue of inequality in Artificial Intelligence (AI). Your task is to explore and critically analyze how AI can perpetuate or mitigate social inequalities, and propose theoretical solutions based on your findings. You should take and defend a contestable ethical position.

This exercise aims to deepen your understanding of the ethical implications of AI in society and encourages you to apply theoretical perspectives to real-world issues. This assignment consists of two main components: Perusall Annotation Tasks (45% of the grade) and an Ethics Position Statement (55% of the grade). It aims to deepen your understanding of AI's ethical implications and encourage applying theoretical perspectives to real-world issues.

Deadlines

Monday, March 11, 14:00 – Friday, March 22, 17:00	**Discussion Board 1** Participation via Perusall in Canvas *Feedback in workshop on Tuesday, March 26*
Thursday, March 28, 14:00 – Friday, April 19, 17:00	**Discussion Board 2** Participation via Perusall in Canvas *Feedback in workshop on Tuesday, April 23*
Wednesday, April 24, 14:00 – Wednesday, May 15, 17:00	**Discussion Board 3** Participation via Perusall in Canvas *Feedback in workshop on Thursday, May 16*
Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 17:00	**Statement of core argument** Submission via Canvas *Feedback in workshop on Thursday, May 23*
Friday, May 24, 2024, 17:00	**Progress check** *Feedback in Check-In on Tuesday, May 28*
Monday, June 3, 2024, 17:00	**Final submission** Submit PDF file via Canvas

Part 1: Perusall Annotation Tasks (45% of Total Grade)

This portion involves three annotation tasks using Perusall, each contributing 15% to your total grade. You are expected to read and critically annotate selected texts, demonstrating thoughtful engagement and understanding.

Annotation Task 1: Cooperation vs. Competition in Political Science and AI Ethics (15%)
- Perusall discussion board closing deadline: March 22, 5 p.m.
- **Reading Focus:** Explore issues in AI ethics through the lens of cooperation versus competition. What is the essential nature of humans and how does this affect the way we pursue AI?
- **Task:** Annotate the provided text, highlighting how these concepts can be applied to understand ethical dilemmas in AI.
- **Feedback**: Provided during CME workshop on March 26.

Annotation Task 2: Critical Lenses on AI Ethics (15%)
- Perusall discussion board closing deadline: April 19, 5 p.m.
- **Reading Focus:** Annotate scholarly articles addressing AI ethics through critical lenses such as gender, socioeconomic status, race, etc.
- **Task:** Engage with the text, adding insightful comments and questions that deepen understanding of AI ethics from diverse perspectives.
- **Feedback**: Provided during CME workshop on April 23.

Annotation Task 3: Privacy and Autonomy in AI (15%)
- Perusall discussion board closing deadline: May 15, 2 p.m.
- **Reading Focus:** Annotate readings related to privacy and autonomy issues in AI.
- **Task:** Focus on how AI impacts individual privacy and autonomy, contributing to the discussion through annotations.
- **Feedback**: Provided during CME workshop on May 16

If you have not used Perusall before, please refer to the provided guidelines on effective annotation for a successful outcome.

Note that feedback will not be individualized. Instead, feedback will consist of a group discussion of the debates that emerged via the discussion boards. CLs will moderate these discussions, raising significant issues and probing potential weaknesses in the discussion.

Deliverable
Annotations via the Perusall platform on Canvas.

Part 2: Ethics Position Statement (55% of Total Grade)

Develop an ethics position statement that addresses a specific AI issue, informed by one of the theoretical perspectives explored in the annotation tasks.

Proposal Components:
1. **Thesis Development:** Choose an AI issue based on your readings and annotations, or individual interests. Formulate a thesis statement addressing this issue's ethical implications.
2. **Application of Ethics Concepts:** Choose one of the conceptual frameworks (Cooperation vs. Competition, Critical Lenses, or Privacy and Autonomy) that you have explored in your annotations. Analyze how your chosen AI tool or algorithm impacts society, using the conceptual lens you selected.
3. **Position Statement:** Take and defend a contestable ethical position on this topic. In defending your position, address both the benefits and ethical challenges.

Deliverable
Well-structured PDF document, submitted via Canvas.

Assessment Criteria

Perusall Annotations (45%)
- Demonstrates thoughtful reading of texts.
- Engagement with the text and with comments made by your peers.
- Depth of insight.
- Contribution to collaborative learning.

Ethics Proposal (55%)
- Clear and noteworthy thesis.
- Well-articulated conceptual framework.
- Well-supported and convincing arguments.
- Depth and practical relevance of ethical insights.
- Adherence to academic standards.
  - **Word Limit:** 1600 words (strict maximum, excluding references).
  - Well-written and edited, with a logical structure.
  - Relevant academic sources are adequately utilised and correctly referenced.

Learning Objectives
- Design and implement projects that are able to take power and values into account.
- Explain socially responsible AI as a change-making method.
- Evaluate vis-a-vis ethical aspects of AI/algorithm-based interventions.
- Suggest scenarios on how new digital tools may influence individuals and society with probable desirable and undesirable effects.