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STAT 303

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Final Project Part Four: Reflection and Self-evaluation

1. At the beginning of the class, we discussed techno-optimism and techno-pessimism. What, if anything, about your answer has changed? What hasn’t changed?

At the beginning of the quarter I couldn’t decide if I was a techno-optimist or a techno-pessimist. The reason I couldn’t decide was because I knew when it came to the ever growing sector of technology that there were existing pros and cons that made it hard to come to a decision on whether it was good or bad as a whole. Eleven weeks later I still hold the same opinions about technology, except now with a new found respect and caution towards the dangers that technology, especially automated-decision making systems, can put on society. With a better understanding of the real-world impacts of AI, ML, etc. on society I have realized the growing importance of spreading awareness about these issues to the general public. If we can learn to manage and mitigate these ethical concerns, I feel there is a lot of room for me to become a full fledged techno-optimist/supporter.

1. What is one thing that you feel you did well in this class? What is one area in which you wish to improve in the future?

The one thing I feel I did really well in this class was reading and taking notes. While a vast majority of students in classes like these skim the assigned readings and take few notes, I read all of the assigned articles and thoroughly took notes on them. This allowed me to breeze through the asynchronous activities, long responses, and discussant questions without having to do much rereading or scrambling at the last minute. One area in which I wish to improve on in the future is editing and rereading my rough draft. Overall my writing in the long responses was fairly strong, however I feel like I lost a lot of useless points due to the fact that I didn’t reread and edit my work thoroughly. In the future I will patiently dissect my work to ensure it is the best version of itself that it can be.

1. What, if any, topics did you enjoy reading about and discussing most? What, if any, topics did you not enjoy discussing?

The topic that I enjoyed reading and discussing the most was the “statistical definitions of fairness” section that we covered in week 4 or 5. I enjoyed this topic the most because it brought out the computational/mathematical side of my brain. Reading the articles surrounding this topic was challenging as they were notationaly rigorous, but they allowed me to further develop my mathematical and statistical reading skills, which has translated over to some of my other math and statistics classes this quarter. In particular, there weren’t any readings that I found too difficult to read, but if I had to choose a reading that was my least favorite it would have to be the books from Kate Crawford. The only problem I had with these readings is that Kate makes the readings needlessly long by talking in circles, and loaded the pages with unneeded jargon that makes what she is trying to say unclear at times.