**CS 3200 (Computer Ethics) [Fall 2018]**

**Assignment 2**

**Due date: Sunday, September 16, 2018 by 11:00 p.m.**

***Print your name: \_Levi Sutton\_***

**Write short descriptive answer to the following questions**

1. In a CS course syllabus, the instructor prohibits all types of cellphone use.

a) If you were to support the policy, what reasoning you would provide? Justify. [**2 points**]

*Answer:*

- My reasoning for supporting the policy would be based soly on respect for the professor and how they want the classroom structured. If they feel people having their cellphones out in the ckassroom will cause a distraction for others and they feel it will also help students pay better attention, then we as students should follow by their policy, because it’s the respectful thing to do and professors are here to give us the necessary tools we need to become better people in a workplace, so we shouldn’t be wasting anyones time messing with our phones in the middle of class.

b) If you were to object to the policy, what argument you would provide? Justify. [**2 points**]

*Answer:*

- If I were to object to the policy the argument I could make, is that, professors don’t pay for the phone, our parents and in some cases the students do. It’s our right to do what we want with our property. The students are paying for the class, if students choose to not want to listen in class and choose to be on their phones, ultimately that’s our choice.

c) Indicate your own opinion about ethicality of this policy. [**2 points**]

**(Note: *any policy/law can be designed and implemented, but that does not mean the policy/law is the “right” thing to have. Hence, we can always do an ethical analysis of a policy/law*)**

*Answer:*

In my opinion I think the policy is ethical. I highly doubt the professors are putting this policy in place just to be bad people and make our lives difficult. I think they are doing it, because they see how much phones can be such a distraction, not just in the classroom but outside the classroom as well. People are so drawn to their phones and get so inolved it’s as if the outside world doesn’t exist. I think they have our best intentions in mind with this policy and we should follow it, like I said previouly, out of respect for the professor and their classroom.

2. Discuss three reasons why the Internet could be considered a relatively easier medium to protect freedom of speech. [**6 points**]

(*Student is expected to state specific things that the Internet, unlike other media types, typically allow its user which, consequently, helps to enjoy/protect freedom of speech of the user.*)

*Answer:*

1. You get more access to the 1st amendment, because theres more computers than the constitution, you don’t have to drive to go see it everytime and see what rights you have.
2. You have easier acces to the 1st amendent. You can get on the computer and within minutes you can have the whole Constitution right in front of you and you could also check around the world if people are having their rights infringed upon and fight for their injustifications. In doing so, you can gain supporters from around the world.
3. You can express yourself far and wide and as long as you are not going past the confines of that right, then noone can supress your views. Noone can take your blog, social media, etc. away from you and you could essentially touch many people alike and affect change in a positive way.

3. Various organizations and members of Congress suggest requiring Web sites that contain material “harmful to minors” to move to a new domain with extension “*.xxx*”. Give (with justification) one reason in favor, and one reason against such a proposal. [**4 points**]

*Answer:*

**In favor:** I would be in favor, because it will allow parents to better control minors trying to explore these sites. Parents could just block everything with an “.xxx” extension and not have to worry as much that their kids are being exposed to such sites that could ultimately effect them and and their thought processes that kids at an early age should not be thinking.

**Against:** An argument that could be made, would be, the companies are not doing anything illigal and shouldn’t have to abide by a utilitarian approach to supress them. Just like anything it’s a business and they collect revenue and pay an x amount of money to service providers hosting their sites and have every right to be under any domain of their choosing just like every other website. If we start supressing one side that has sites that are innapropriate, then we have to start supressing all sites that could potentially be harmful for everyone in a community, not just to minors. Like web sites that just sell guns or knives, etc.

4. Describe an example of Web contents (other than that are already censored by laws) that should be considered for censorship. Provide reasoning for your answer. [**4 points**]

*Answer:*

- Web contents devoted to pornography is one of the major examples. They should be in the consideration for censorship. Kids are interested in everything and it’s hard to supress their curiosity. More kids are being exposed to the internet, kids have smart phones, tablets, etc. now that have access to these sites and parents can’t be with them 24 hours a day. It’s not appropriate for kids to have that kind of knowledge, especially at certain ages. For ex. You don’t need a kid in elementary school asking about or clicking on sites that contain innapropriate material and then having their parents stressing about their kids and what’s going on in their thought processes after being exposed, especially at that age. And you can make the argument kids at that age shouldn’t have such devices, but in the world we live in, technology is everywhere and it’s much harder to supress the internet in this day and age. You can get on the internet on your television now or gaming devices such as PS4, Xbox, or Nintendo that you know kids play everyday and all day. It’s all around us and it’s not hard to believe that a kid could gain access to these sites at anytime.

**Submission instructions:** write your name at the top and include answer to each question on this document preferably after each question. Please do not write your answers on a separate document, or file. Submit the file through BlazeVIEW dropbox.