**Privacy and Technology and Human Rights Assignment**



This assignment will help you explore the evolution of privacy rights, technological impacts on privacy, and the intersection between privacy and human rights. You will complete a series of activities leading to a final in-class essay. The assignment encourages you to use research and critical thinking to examine the evolving relationship between privacy, technology, and human rights in both historical and modern contexts.

**Part 1: Evolution of Privacy Rights (Choose two of the following activities)**

Create a Historical Timeline

* + Task: Choose five to eight key historical events related to privacy, such as philosophical origins, landmark court cases, legislation, and technological impacts.
  + Examples you could include:
    - The development of the right to privacy in the 19th century.
    - The publication of the Warren and Brandeis article (1890) that defined privacy in legal terms.
    - The formation of the European Union’s GDPR in 2018.
    - Technological impacts: The rise of surveillance tech, smartphones, and data privacy laws like PIPEDA in Canada.
  + Provide a brief summary of each event and its impact on privacy.

Highlight Three Legal Systems

* + Task: Compare how privacy is treated in three legal systems: the UK, Canada, the US, European Courts, Australia, and New Zealand.
  + Focus on:
    - Key laws protecting privacy (e.g., GDPR in the EU, PIPEDA in Canada, the US Constitution’s Fourth Amendment).
    - Landmark court decisions (e.g., *R. v. Spencer* in Canada, *Carpenter v. U.S.* in the US, *Google Inc. v. Spain* in the EU).
    - Differences in how each jurisdiction balances privacy and security.

Philosophers and Legal Thinkers

* + Task: Choose two philosophers or legal thinkers and explain their views on privacy.
  + Examples:
    - Warren and Brandeis (1890) – Their definition of privacy as the “right to be left alone.”
    - Michel Foucault – His ideas on surveillance and how privacy intersects with power structures.
  + Discuss how their ideas influenced modern privacy laws in different countries.

CCLA’s Work on Privacy Rights

* + Task: Research the work of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) regarding privacy rights.
  + Summarize their ideas on how privacy is protected and their advocacy efforts.
  + Questions to Consider:
    - Do you agree or disagree with the CCLA’s stance on privacy? Why or why not?
    - Do their recommendations align with your views on privacy in the digital age?

**Part 2: Technology and Human Rights (Choose two of the following activities)**

1984 is Here Article

* + Task: read the article "1984 is Here." Answer the following questions:
    - How does the article compare surveillance today to the surveillance described in George Orwell's *1984*?
    - What are the human rights implications of such surveillance?

TED Talks on Technology and Human Rights

* + Task: Watch at least two TED Talks related to technology, human rights, and privacy.
    - Examples include talks on AI, facial recognition technology, data privacy, and surveillance.
  + Write a brief summary of each TED Talk and answer how the content addresses privacy, human rights, and technology.

Contribute a Credible Resource

* + Task: Find a credible and reliable resource about AI, technology, privacy, and human rights.
  + Provide:
    - A short summary of the resource.
    - A link or copy of the resource.
    - A comment on the credibility of the source and its relevance to privacy issues.

Part 3: Watching a Documentary

* *Coded Bias* Viewing and Questions
  + Task: Watch the documentary *Coded Bias*.
  + Answer the questions provided on the movie, reflecting on the implications of AI and technology on privacy and human rights.

1. What are some popular culture depictions of artificial intelligence you have seen in film or

television? How do you think popular culture has influenced perceptions of AI?

Terminator, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Blade Runner. Pop culture depicts AI as extremely intelligent both in the traditional sense and emotionally.

1. How do algorithms influence what news we see online or the perspectives we see on social media? How does AI shape the way we all think?
2. Joy Buolamwini’s research challenged the idea that technology is a neutral decision maker and immune to human bias. What is bias? How did Buolamwini’s work help to expose AI bias?
3. What civil rights are at stake when it comes to automated decision making? What protections do we need to safeguard as AI develops in the future? How does the development of ChatGPT and the like make these rights’ protections even more important.
4. Who is harmed by AI bias? How does power factor into who is harmed and who benefits from AI products?

Algorithms are inherently biased due to training data generated by humans. However, AI is often treated as

1. Amy Webb in the film says: “I would prefer to see our Western democratic ideals baked into our AI systems of the future.” What ideas or values would you like to see incorporated into AI development?
2. Do you think police or immigration enforcement should be allowed to search databases that store your driver’s license photo or passport photo? Explain your response.

1. Joy Buolamwini says in the film: “Because of the power of these tools, left unregulated there’s really no kind of recourse if they’re abused. We need laws.” Do you agree that AI should be regulated? Why or why not? How might governments regulate AI? What are some of the difficulties lawmakers face when trying to regulate AI and technology in general?
2. Studies found that racial bias in algorithms used in the courts for sentencing and in hospitals to recommend health care – even though the AI did not factor in race data. How does this happen? What is causing biased results?

10. Choose one person or group in the film and research what they have been doing and

saying about new developments in AI. Choose from Joy Buolamwini, Cathy O’Neil, Amy

Webb, Ravi Naik, Zeynap Tufecki or Big Brother Watch or the Algorithmic Justice League.

Write a paragraph or two describing their work and continued contributions to the

discussion on AI and human rights.

Part 4: In-Class Essay Preparation

* Essay Question Options:
  1. How has technology changed the nature of privacy rights in the 21st century?
  2. Should privacy be a fundamental human right in the age of surveillance and AI? Discuss.
  3. Compare historical and modern views on privacy. How has technological advancement affected these views?