# CS 200 - Paper 2 - Spring 2017

## 1 Deadlines

Abstract - 2/27
Rough draft - 3/19
Final draft - 4/3

## 2 Topic

"You don't tell me how to behave; you're not my mother!"
– Data, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, Season 4, Episode 25.
Technological changes have drastically altered how society produces, stores, shares, hides, parses, and consumes data. For this paper, you will investigate how a particular algorithm or class of algorithms influences societal use of data. The primary focus should be on the algorithm's effect on society, not the internal workings of the algorithm. You should discuss how the algorithm changed how we interact with data. If this discussion includes a value judgment, you should also discuss the reasoning of the opposing view.
Noteworthy algorithms are almost all famous for some disruptive change,[1] but you should focus specifically on something that had a marked social influence. Again, if you are interested in a potential topic but nervous about its appropriateness, let me know and we can try to work it out.

## 3 Format

Paper 2 is narrower in focus than Paper 1. Instead of the full march of history, you are focused on a single step. It also differs in that it should be persuasive writing. You don't need to take an ethical or moral stance, but you should at least persuade the reader that the societal changes you discuss are in fact due to the algorithm's influence.
As before, you should cite information from several reliable sources and write for a general adult audience. Do not assume the reader to have extensive technical knowledge. Strive for clarity and succinctness in your writing.
You must cite at least four written references, in addition to any of the course texts used. These may be books or articles from academic journals, major newspapers, or established magazines. Blogs and websites like Wikipedia may be used to discover sources, but they are not to be cited from and will not count towards your number of references.
You'll start with a short (∼150–200 word) abstract describing your proposed topic. This will be due earlier (2/27), so that we can make sure you are on the right track. Of course, please feel free to contact me earlier if you are nervous about your topic! Completion of your abstract on time counts for 10% of the paper grade.

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[1]Bubble sort being the obvious exception.

A rough draft will be due 3/5, providing ample time for your WA conference. This peer revision is extremely helpful in fine-tuning your draft so that you end up with a final product you can be proud of. Remember that your WA's time is valuable. The conference is required and influences the rough draft portion of your grade. In total, the rough draft and WA meeting count for 20% of the paper grade.

The rough draft and final paper should be submitted in PDF. Your references must be appropriately cited. No specific reference format is required, but enough information must be provided for finding any source you use. Plagiarism is unacceptable. The full paper must be at least 1500 words. This word count does not count your references.