AI is a very interesting but intimidating topic. While it provides innovation, many people are also afraid of what this technology can do. AI has been a hot topic in the news lately. One news article I found called “Meet Electronic Caregiver: An up-and-coming Las Cruces tech company” is about a company local to Las Cruces. They use artificial intelligence to help power their virtual caregiver, Addison. This use of AI is a benefit to the public. Another news article I found titled “How artificial intelligence provided early warnings of the Wuhan virus”, talked about the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus in China. The company Bluedot used artificial intelligence to analyze data, and were able to predict the spread of the disease even before big government agencies were able to. The third news article called “Google boss Sundar Pichai calls for AI regulation”, talked about how there is now a call for artificial intelligence to be regulated. I believe this is the most significant article out of the three, because I think this is an important issue. Right now, there are basically no regulations on the use of artificial intelligence. This has let to a lot of innovation, but there have also been malicious uses of AI. One example of this are “deepfakes”. This is where a program uses machine learning to analyze facial expressions, and allows you to switch faces with anyone. The more data you have, the more realistic it gets. With this software, you can make anyone look like they’re saying something they never actually did.

This is why I believe regulation is the most important AI issue that I hear people talking about. One reason for this issue is the aforementioned malicious intent. Another is limiting innovation. Automobile autonomy is a huge part of AI, and fully autonomous vehicles are fast approaching. However, I think some people feel the world isn’t ready for this technology. How much can we trust autonomous vehicles? Is the AI as capable, or more capable to make the same judgments as humans? I think these are the questions people have in their mind as this technology rapidly advances.

Among big name companies, I feel that most tech companies have a fair amount of AI, but I’d say Facebook would have “more” AI. From experience, I know it tracks your browsing habits to show you ads that are tailored to your interests. They also have millions of pictures in their database that they use facial recognition on to help you tag your friends in photos. They also use location data to see what places you visit, and will show other people who has been where, and what locations are more popular, as well as when places are most busy. Facebook also owns Instagram, so they have billions more data points they can analyze. Therefore I think that Facebook would have “more” AI.

From this course, I expect to gain a basic understanding of how AI works. I would like to learn the algorithms involved in an AI application. I also hope to learn some of the ethics behind AI, and how we can innovate while also keeping the population safe.