CSC 450, Senior Research

As defined by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), **Human Subjects Research** involves any investigation where "an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information." Because of past abuses involving research of human subjects (e.g., the Tuskegee syphilis experiment), procedures are in place to ensure the safety and protection of research participants. Generally, human subjects research requires the approval of an Institutional Review Board (IRB). Information about the IRB at Eastern is available here: http://www1.easternct.edu/academicaffairs/protocol-application-for-research-on-human-subjects/

Class projects are generally exempt from IRB review as long as they do not pose a risk (physical, emotional, financial, or legal harm) greater than what would normally be encountered in everyday life. In addition, the subject's privacy must be protected, which is guaranteed as long as no identifying information about the subjects is collected.

What should I do if I want to conduct Human Subjects Research for this course?

1. Discuss your project with me as soon as possible, so we can address any ethical issues that may exist.

2. Complete an online tutorial on Human Subject Research (https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php), and pass the accompanying quiz. After you pass the quiz, print out the certificate and turn it into me, and also save a copy for your records. The tutorial takes about 90 minutes to complete and must be completed when the proposal is due.

3. Except in extremely rare circumstances, an IRB review will not be necessary. However, if you are planning on presenting your work outside of this class (e.g., at a research conference), then an IRB review is required.

4. More information including how to get a study participant's consent will be provided later in the semester.