# Weapons of Math Destruction by Cathy O’Neil

Reading Discussion Questions for Introduction and Chapter 1

Discussion takes place in class on 9/14/21

Written answers to these questions are worth 2 points, participation in discussion is worth up to 1 point, to a maximum of 2 points possible.

1. What is the goal of this book? What are the biases of the writer?

Identify different flaws of the algorithms that exists in the modern world.

1. What does the model of algorithms presented so far tell us about social media?

No model can include all of the real world’s complexity or the nuance of human communication

1. Why does bulk evaluation tend to punish the poor?
2. Have you had experiences with big data that O’Neil’s account illuminates?

Yes, big companies and schools used big data algorithm to “sort” people and student, and evaluate them. Which is sometimes inaccurate.

1. What would it take for an education algorithm to meet all of O’Neil’s criteria for not doing damage?

Both digital and real person evaluation… so try to eliminate the potential error can be made by the system.

1. What are the best ways to address the problem of “false positives”, of exceptionally bad results, of anomalies?
2. What was your favorite passage or idea from these chapters? (write it along with pg. #)
3. What questions do you have?

Why the algorithms are created even if people know sometimes it can be biased, and they are used in such important occasions?