

WAYS 103 Algorithms of Oppression
Content Assignment #2: Presentation – Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?

From the syllabus: Content Assignment #2: Presentation – Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?

The purpose of this assignment is for students to synthesize topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion and algorithmic bias in a 5-minute presentation. Drawing from all the readings, and discussions, students will choose a particular AI topic area that we have addressed in the semester. Students will develop and give a presentation that discusses an AI system related to their chosen topic area, focusing on problems of diversity, discrimination, injustice, *etc.*, that the AI manifests or reinforces.

WAYS 103 SLOs addressed by Content Assignment #2:

- SLO 1: Describe and explain systemic cultural, political and/or economic imbalances.
- SLO 2: Describe and explain historical and/or contemporary challenges faced by underrepresented population(s) traditionally marginalized or oppressed in the U.S. and analyze their responses to them
- SLO 4: Identify and evaluate personal and societal assumptions about differences.
- SLO 5: Use spoken communication to demonstrate understanding of differences and sensitivities for the diversity topics explored in the course that
 - a. is supported by credible, relevant and properly cited evidence;
 - b. is designed for a specific audience and purpose;
 - c. demonstrates consistent organizational patterns;

Content SLOs addressed by Content Assignment #2:

- SLO 1: Define algorithm and artificial intelligence (AI).
- SLO 2: Describe the prevalence of AI systems in everyday life.
- SLO 4: Discuss issues with AI that lead to unexpected results from the systems.
- SLO 5: Describe how bias in algorithmic decision making perpetuates and deepens social inequality.

The Assignment

The objective of this assignment is for you to pull together ideas from the readings, videos, and class discussions throughout the semester to focus on algorithmic bias in a particular AI system or application area that is an example of your chosen topic area (see below for some ideas of topics). If you cannot identify a particular AI system, you can instead discuss how the AI behaves that is biased and what makes it behave that way.

Content Assignment #2 is set up in a similar way to Content Assignment #1, with some additional requirements and deliverables.

Deliverables – What you will turn in/do – 72 points total

- **Topic and AI system/algorithm registration. (5 points).**
- **Presentation Workshop Materials and Participation. (15 points)**
- **Slides. (12 points).**
- **Presentation. (40 points).**
- Daily Presentation Notes (9 points. These will count toward weekly attendance, not SCA 2. Included here for completeness.).

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MON Apr 25: <i>Not part of SCA 2</i>	WED Apr 27: DUE IN MOODLE: Topic Registration	FRI Apr 29: <i>Not part of SCA 2</i> Due: CA 2 Discussion Reflection
MON May 2 In class: Presentation Workshop Day 1 Due (before class, in Moodle): Roadmap Due: End of class: Day 1 Summary	WED May 4 In class: Presentation Workshop Day 2 Due (before class, in Moodle): Draft Slides Due: End of class: Day 2 Summary	FRI May 6 In class: Presentation Workshop Day 3 Due (before class, in Moodle): Final Slides Due: End of class: Day 3 Summary
MON May 9 In class: Presentations	WED May 11 In class: Presentations	FRI May 13 In class: Presentations

Figure 1: Schedule overview for assignment.

Topic Registration details

You must register your chosen topic and example system with me in advance. This will allow me to organize the order of presentations more effectively. Topic registration will be done through a Moodle assignment. You will turn in a file with the following information:

- The topic area you have chosen.
- The example AI system you are using for the talk, OR the behaviors of these systems that makes them biased.
- Reference information for at least 1 source that is NOT your textbook or “Coded Bias”.

Presentation details

- **Presentation length:** 5 minutes, timed, with 1 minute for questions after the presentation.
- **Sources required:** Yes. You must use AT LEAST one source that is not *WMD* or “Coded Bias”.
- **Slides required:** Yes. [NOTE: Turning in your slides through Moodle will be a separate score in addition to the presentation.]
- **Scoring:** see evaluation form. Presentations will be evaluated on content and presentation skills, as detailed on the evaluation form. Grade will be out of 40 points total.
- **Content:** The content of the presentation will be a discussion of algorithmic bias in a specific use/application of AI, using an example AI system to illustrate the bias.
 - *Speech structure:* The speech must have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.
 - Introduction must introduce the AI topic.
 - Body of speech must discuss the bias issues with the type of system in general and your chosen example system.
 - Be sure to give your takeaway message in your conclusion.
 - *Presentation skills:* Presentation skills will be most of the presentation points. The idea is to give you feedback on ways to improve, while not penalizing too much when you are anxious or run into problems during the presentation. Part of what this course does is to help you improve your speaking skills.
 - *Slides:* I will evaluate your slides are part of the presentation as well as separately (for a smaller grade) so that I can give you specific feedback on the slides. Remember that the task of the slides is to support your talk, not try to give it for you! Slides should never distract from what you are saying in the talk. *Be sure to include citation of sources in your slides since sources are required for this talk!*

WAYS 103 Algorithms of Oppression
Content Assignment #2: Presentation – Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?

Presentation Procedure

- **Presentation order:** I will organize the order of presentations, taking topics into consideration. The order will NOT be announced in advance.
- **Slides:**
 - You will turn in your slides to a Moodle assignment. **You must turn in the slides file, NOT a link to a file in the cloud.** Please do not share your files with me.
 - As with the previous presentation, you have 3 options for accessing your slides during your talk: (1) upload your slides to the shared OneDrive folder for the class (I will post the link in Moodle); (2) use your own device (laptop, USB, phone; you must provide any needed adapters) to connect to the classroom system; (3) log into your own cloud storage location. Please note that your slides are your responsibility, not mine. I will NOT have Moodle or my email open during class so you can access your slides.
- **Process for talks:**
 - Speakers will be announced as they come up in my random order. I will announce speakers in such a way that the speaker who will go after the next speaker will be warned that they are up next.
 - If a speaker is not present when called on to speak, I will call on the next person in order. If you walk in later in the same class meeting, you will become the next speaker to go. If you miss the class meeting entirely, it becomes a “missed presentation”.
- **Making up missed presentation:**
 - I will allow you make up a missed presentation ONLY in particular circumstances. In general, I must know about the absence **in advance**:
 - You have a reason for absence that you have already told me about (*e.g.*, athletics, scheduled medical procedure), OR
 - You notify me **at least 2 hours before class that you will be absent**. To do this, you must send me an email for documentation stating the reason for your absence. The timestamp on the email will show if you made the notification in time. Only illness, injury, or an emergency would be legitimate reasons for this sort of absence on a presentation day.
 - If you miss your presentation (and have met one of the two conditions given above), you will have the chance to make up your presentation **on the first day you return to class**.
 - It is your responsibility to tell me at the beginning of the class meeting that you need to make up your talk. If you do not tell me, you forfeit your only chance to make up the talk.
 - This is ONE chance at a make-up talk. If you return to class and are not prepared for your talk, you forfeit the make-up opportunity and receive a 0 for the talk.
 - **Because this is the end of the semester, we have very little flexibility for making up missed talks. I will reserve some time during the final exam time if necessary. The best option is for talks to be complete on the last Friday before finals.**

Topic area ideas

Just to get you started, here are some example AI topic areas.

- Targeting advertising (for-profit colleges, payday lenders, *etc.*)
- Facial recognition
- Social network feeds, suggested posts, *etc.*
- Social credit score
- Job applications (resume screening, *etc.*)
- Employee monitoring, evaluation, scheduling (such as Value-Added Model, “just in time” shift scheduling, *etc.*)
- Credit, loans, and differential pricing
- Health care

WAYS 103 Algorithms of Oppression
Content Assignment #2: Presentation – Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?

- College applications

These are examples to provide ideas for topics. Many possibilities exist that are not on this list. Please don't hesitate to talk to me about an idea you have, or for additional suggestions. Once you have selected a particular topic area, you will choose a specific AI system to use as an example, or a specific aspect of the behavior or impact of AI systems in that application area.

Keep in mind that you may not be able to pinpoint a specific AI system (we may not know what system or algorithm is being used). In that case, you will focus on what the problems are with these types of systems, the evidence that shows that they are biased in their behavior, and the impact of the bias.

You must find and use AT LEAST one source in addition to the textbook and *Coded Bias*. I expect your presentation content to go beyond what we have already read/seen/discussed in class.

Evaluations

Please see the evaluation rubrics available in Moodle.

Daily Presentation Notes

At the end of each day of presentations, you will turn in a notes page with specific information about the talks given that day. I will provide a handout for you to use for this purpose. The presentation notes will count toward your attendance/participation grade for the week.

WAYS 103 Algorithms of Oppression
Content Assignment #2: Presentation – Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?

Presentation Workshop

To help you prepare for your presentation, we will have a week-long Presentation Workshop in class the week before presentations. Each day will focus on a different aspect of the presentation, and you will have deliverables due at the beginning and end of each class day. All items will be graded. **Deliverables due at the end of class are an attendance and participation grade and cannot be made up if you are absent.**

The workshop activities will be conducted in small groups. Groups will be assigned at random each day.

The day-by-day breakdown for the workshop is shown below. Details for the deliverables will be discussed in another document.

Monday: Presentation content and organization

Deliverables:

- *Due before class (in Moodle):* Presentation roadmap and storyline
- *Due at the end of class:* Day 1 Summary
- *Activity:* Bring your roadmap/storyline to class. Talk through your roadmap and storyline with your group. The group will ask questions and give suggestions for improving the structure or content of the presentation.

Wednesday: Slides

Deliverables:

- *Due before class (in Moodle):* Draft slides
- *Due at the end of class:* Day 2 Summary
- *Activity:* Bring your draft slides to class. Show your slides to your group. The group will provide feedback and suggestions for improving your presentation slides.

Friday: Presentation rehearsal

Deliverables:

- *Due before class (in Moodle):* Final version of slides
- *Due at the end of class:* Day 3 Summary
- *Activity:* Bring your finished slides to class. Run through your presentation for your group, as if you were giving your presentation for the class. Someone in the group will time the presentation. After each presentation, the group will give feedback about the presentation to help you improve.