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Read all the instructions in the final exam instructions carefully before beginning! You’re required to write into this document, adding the necessary pages, and resave the file as your own.

**Essay Question I.**

**New technologies have always produced unintended consequences. One result of this would be how UX designers and engineers face a number of new ethical challenges today with the rise of technology regarding our interaction with it and dependence on it.**

**What is the primary job of a UX designer? Discuss the principle ethical quandaries faced by UX designers. What is persuasive design? Discuss the ways you feel this positively and/or negatively affect user behavior.**

The primary job of the UX designer is to “…ensure the enhancement from the start of the idea through the distribution of the completed product” (DeFelice). So, what this basically means is that UX designers are the ones that help make using phones and apps easier for everyday people to use. The UX designers help to make apps user friendly to help everyday use easier and without all of the confusion. Some of the ethical quandaries these UX designers face are influencing user behavior, the erosion of privacy and the dangers of distraction. When it comes to influencing user behavior, an example would be “kid tracker” software where it allows the parents of that child to be monitored at all times. It is supposed to “…enhance discipline and improvement on behavioral habits” (DeFelice). This software would allow parents to assess their child’s behavior, but it does come with a downside. “…a design like this, it prompts the parent to invade their child’s privacy and jeopardize trust” (DeFelice). A software like this would take away their child’s privacy and most likely their trust. Another ethical quandary these UX designers face is the erosion of privacy. Many of the apps we use today always ask for permission to collect data from the app to give you a better experience. The only problem with that is that these companies that want to collect your data, are most likely sending it off to other companies to in order for them to make your experience “more enjoyable”. This is all an invasion of privacy because once the ball starts rolling, it won’t stop. Not only are companies basically tracking you, software’s like previously said before like “kid trackers”, are eroding the privacy of children also. Now when it comes to the dangers of distraction, it is all in the hand of the user. The UX designers are the ones making these software’s easier for us to use, but it is up to us to not get distracted. “…convergence of technologies can tax our attention spans in a way that threaten the limits of human capabilities. One case is the increased integration of communication, navigation, and entertainment technologies in automotive design” (DeFelice). As the world of technology and automotive is increasingly getting better, technology is now being incorporated in the designs of cars which is making some to believe that it can be a distraction. Most cars made today have built in Bluetooth for you to be able to connect your phone for music and to make phone calls, navigation and in some cars, they have built in Wi-Fi. Now I can see where the distraction can come into play, but that is up to the user to know if it is going to be a distraction, not the UX designers who are just doing their jobs in simplifying our lives. Now Persuasive design is a design that “…focuses on influencing human behavior through a product’s or service’s characteristics… on psychological and social theories… “(Interaction- Design). Persuasive design is a way for advertising or just the way the app I made to influence other people. Now I don’t think this has a negative aspect. It is all based on the user and how they feel. Not everyone would be easily persuaded and if they are they want go so deep into it. The user is the only one who can control themselves and the designers behind the designs are just basically doing their jobs.

**Essay Question II.**

**The rise of digital technology has had a massive impact in the international creative community. Small digital video cameras and editing software have made it easier than ever for aspiring filmmakers to make a movie. Inexpensive recording software has done the same for musicians. Digital photography now rivals the traditional chemical process for resolution, while image manipulation is simpler and more sophisticated than ever before. Ultimately, the Internet provides a worldwide platform for artists of all stripes to share his/her work.**

**What are some of the core characteristics of the digital world? Discuss how these have impacted the arts. What are some specific developments that have impacted artists? In what ways are they unrewarding and in what ways are they beneficial?**

The digital world is an ever-evolving world. It is a world where everyone can connect and share their art. Some of the core characteristics of the digital world is that it is electronic, networked and interconnected. The fact that it is electronic is that everything is saved electronically instead in a physical form. “…does not have to be a physical object…for something to exist as an artwork” (DeFelice). Art has evolved into something that was to be something that you physically had to touch and see in person, but now art can be made digitally and shared everywhere without you ever having to go somewhere for you to see it. Now this leads into the fact that it is networked and interconnected. “Because material is in electronic form, it can be moved over worldwide electronic networks, including the internet and mobile networks” (DeFelice). “Unlike radio and television where information moves from a broadcaster to an audience, information on the internet can move between many points” (DeFelice). The digital world being networked and interconnected both play in each other’s hand. With it being network, artists have a platform where they can just post it and it can be seen by a wider audience rather than have an exhibition where people have to travel. The fact that it is also interconnected help these artist to. Artists are able to see what people really feel about their work and can also track how many people have looked at their art to. In the digital world, there has been some specific developments that have impacted artists also. One development is social media. Social media has taken the world by storm and has allowed so many artists to been seen and heard. Social media allows these artists to connect to a very wide audience on a global platform. Many campaigns have caught fire because of social media like the “Me Too” movement that fights against sexual harassment in the work place and just anywhere in general. Now with a development like this, it can be rewarding and unrewarding at times. There are some art forms that have gained a lot due to technology like film, and music. It allows these artists to be seen on a wider platform and it is easier to distribute these items to the public much easier, but with such an easy way to connect to the public, it is easier for these artists to lose money also. For music is so much easier for people to pirate their music with software’s like LimeWire and FrostWire. Even though these software’s are gone now, you can still easily download these files via a video to mp4 converter that you can just google. For film, they are dealing with bringing films to smaller screens, a new larger audience, many equipment companies falling apart and new filmmakers coming out every day causing more of a competition. Even though there are many down-sides, there are still up-sides. These artists are publishing their work on mostly free platforms and a wider audience are seeing their works. For example, Beyoncé released her visual album “Lemonade” on HBO and on the streaming service tidal instead of making physical CD’s and records. Because of this her album shot up the charts and had people talking about it for weeks because it reached such a large audience. Artists are always going to have an ever-evolving platform for their works which will help with increase viewership, but it also comes with a down-side but what doesn’t?

**Essay Question III.**

**Human enhancement technology converges nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and cognitive science to improve human performance, attempting to temporarily or permanently overcome the current limitations of the human body through natural or artificial means.**

**Discuss some specific developments in human enhancement technology. Do you have trouble with the idea of these technologies making us stronger, faster, better? Do these advancements come at any cost? Such as privacy issues or a question of morals? What technological innovation do you think we need most and why?**

Humans have a basic need to always develop and make things easier. The same goes for us wanting human enhancements. We are always looking for new ways to help us improve with easier technologies. One technology that has come into play that can help us is 3D- Printing. 3D printing can help us in the medical world to make it easier for reconstructing damaged bones, blood vessels and body parts. “The outlook for medical use of 3D printing is evolving at an extremely rapid pace as specialists are beginning to utilize 3D printing in more advanced ways. Patients around the world are experiencing a growing availability of 3D printed implants and prosthetics…” (DeFelice). 3D printing is allowing medical doctors and surgeons a way to replace items in the human body quicker and easier than ever before. If you are on the organ transplant list, you are on that list for a while before a match can be made and even then, you do not know how body will react to the new organ if it will attack it or not. With 3D printing, they can use the same stem cells that are in their patients in order to make an organ that their patients body would not attack. Now I think an innovation like this is mind-blowing and amazing. An innovation like this can change the face of medicine forever. I think any new development for human enhancement is all god unless it is used for a different purpose such as using the 3D printer to print guns and weapons. I think all developments do come with a glitch in that some people will find that black hole and use it for other purposes other than the intended one. If there is any innovation that will help us be a better species than I am all here for it. Now I think all innovations for human enhancements come with an invasion of privacy and a question of morals. Any type of human enhancement, you have to be alright with people having your DNA for a long period of time in order to make whatever they have to make whether it be an organ or a body part. Now for the questioning of morals, any type of artificially making of organs, body parts or any other thing for the human body is almost looked at as an act of playing God for some people. I just think that people have to be secure in themselves and in their doctors for allowing them to use such innovations that will only better their life. I love the fact that these innovations are allowing doctors to 3D print artificial human body parts or organs, but I think one innovation that would be amazing is something that can help cancer patients go through less pain when going through chemotherapy. Something less invasive would be such a huge development for the medical world. Chemotherapy is such a harsh treatment, but if there was a way to invent something that would wipe out chemotherapy and allow cancer patients to live their life outside of a hospital would be a remarkable task.

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