Assignment 1
Mohammad Rajabi Seraji – 301378939

1. **2. The goal of TCPS2 & The definition of ethics in research with human participants.**

In my opinion, the goal of this document is to incorporate ethics in scientific research that include human participants in a particular way. The foundation of it, though, is the value of respect for human dignity. So, it is comprised of a set of minimum guidelines for researchers to make sure that their human participants are well protected and out of risk. (2) As ethics is a general term that can be defined in various ways, the authors of TCPS 2 have broken it to three core principles. Their main concern is to make sure that every research that in some way has to deal with human participants, their personal data and their biological remains conform to these core principles. In short, it tries to make sure that these types of research always asses the risks and benefits fairly and equitably, inform their participants of them, empower them to decide to give or refuse their consent and make sure to take all the needed measures to minimize or remove the risks and amplify the benefits.

So in a way, we can define ethics in this context as a framework of conduct that makes sure human participants of scientific research are protected, respected, and have been treated fairly.

3. **Three concerns as a SIAT student and suggestions to overcome it.**

As a researcher in AR/VR technologies, 1) my main concern is that our research might cause (or invoke) traumatic memories in participants (things such as the memories of war or other kinds of trauma). Although I believe that if the risks of such studies are adequately communicated with the participants and also necessary measures (such as counseling) are taken, these risks could be minimalized.

2) Another major concern of mine is the potential that research participants that are in most cases chosen from our lab-mates (sometimes because of time constraints and other times solely for its convenience) get into a power relationship, and it causes them harms like hurting their scholarly lives (e.g., blowing exams) or cause breaches into their private matters. I think this problem is quite dominant in academic environments that are always working towards meeting a deadline, though it can be prevented by simple measures such as providing the graduate researchers with a pool of participants from other labs, departments or even institutions.

3) A problem that working in an interdisciplinary field entails, is that maybe I ,as a researcher am not entirely on top of the technology that I'm using (because here in SIAT we come from different backgrounds and fields) so I might not be able to anticipate the risks of my study as comprehensive as an expert in my field would have done. These potential false assessments can be prevented easily by pre-checks from supervisors and expert committees that can run through my research proposal before the testing stage begins.