Topics for
Term Paper
&
Final Project

Final project

- A creative project of your choice related to or informed by what we have studied
- Work individually or with one partner
- A 3- to 5-minute presentation on the last day of class. All team members present.
- Submit a mini proposal along with list of references after library research session

- Computing in society? Technology? It's your choice!

Mini-proposal for project

- One page only
- For groups of two: write the names of the partners and submit one proposal as a group
- For all:
  - Project title, or at least the specific topic
  - Scope of your project—important since group projects should generally be more substantial than individual submissions
  - References you plan to use

Example topics for final project

- Computing for a cause—sustainability
- Important figure in the history of computing
- History of computing and predictions for the future
- Digital communities and politics
- Creativity and digital culture
- Gender and digital culture
- Digital divide
- Engineering a social network
- Cybernetics and society
- Cybernetics, cognitive science and neuro-robotics
- What's up with Watson?
- …

Term paper

- Main component in the course, 20%
- There are three parts:
  - Draft paper (position paper)
  - Debate (Tuesday, 7/28)
  - Final paper

Potential debate (term paper) topics

1. Every undergraduate student should take a CS/IS course in order to graduate
2. High schools should monitor students' Internet activity
3. An employer should monitor all employee email
4. National government should have the power to regulate the Internet
5. "Term of use" should be short and easy to read
6. A website should show visitors its privacy policy and offer "opt-in" rather than "opt-out"
7. Websites should present only facts and truths
8. Copyright length should be short (shorter than life+70yrs)
9. All music download should be charged
10. Quality of social interaction has deteriorated with increased Internet usage
11. Government's eavesdropping on citizen's communication (with foreign nationals) is necessary for national security
12. Benefits of Combining robots and human mind outweigh the harms
13. Benefits of combining robots and humans for advanced prosthetics outweigh the harms
14. Sentient robots should have rights

Your ballot for debate topics

- List three topics that you would like to debate, ranked by your preference, and indicate which side: proposition or opposition
- If you love a topic and do not care which side you'll debate, list both sides and they count as two of your three topics
- Submit a sheet of paper containing your three ranked choices, your name, and your netID no later than Wednesday afternoon

"Mace-Paris" debate format modified

- Teams of 3 or 4
- Speaking order:
  - 1st proposition (up to 3 minutes)
  - 1st opposition (up to 3 minutes)
  - 2nd proposition (up to 3 minutes)
  - 2nd opposition (up to 3 minutes)   POI allowed during the 2nd minute
  - 3rd proposition (up to 3 minutes)
  - 3rd opposition (up to 3 minutes)
  - Floor questions (up to 1 minute)
  - 4th proposition (up to 3 minutes)
  - 4th opposition (up to 3 minutes)   No POI
- Speaker does not have to accept request for Point of Information (POI).