CS/IS 6742 – Natural language processing and social interaction
Lecture 1 handout, Aug 22, 2017

Announcements
Enrollment limited to PhD and M.S. students
No auditing permitted

Course website: http://www.cs.cornell.edu/courses/cs6742/2017fa
   (look for orange; a purple, aqua, yellow, or color scheme indicates a previous semester)

Assignment (A1) has been posted; first deadline (of several) on *Friday Aug. 25.*

Today's outline
1. Why does this course exist?
   a. Scope
   b. Implications
      Intertwined:
      - Better understanding of people. Example: Bryan et al. '11 voter turnout study
      - Better systems. Example: Facebook post ranking involving type of predicted type of subsequent reaction
      - Better society?
2. Examples of discussion systems
   a. Decision discussion: Wikipedia
   b. Moderation mechanisms: Slashdot
3. Course philosophy: learn about NLP, but also about research
   a. Implications for course structure & coursework
      Paraphrasing Eugene Charniak: "The best way to do something is to do *something*"
   b. Assignment A1 and how it is informed by this philosophy