CS182 Final Reflection

Due: 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Friday, March 19.
You should submit this assignment on Gradescope.

Please write two short reflection essays. Each essay should be 500-750 words. The first essay is required for everyone. For the second essay, you should choose one of the prompts (#2-4) below.

Essay #1 (Required)

1. Please review the ACM Code of Conduct that we discussed at the beginning of the class. Review it in light of our discussions over the course of the quarter.
   - What are three significant changes or additions you would make to the substance of the ACM code of ethics?
   - When and how should technologists first be introduced to and agree to the code? What consequences, if any, should there be for violating it?

Essay #2 (Please select one of the options below. Responses should be driven by materials covered in the final module of the class.)

2. In this class, we saw numerous examples of how the impacts of particular technologies are not distributed equitably across different populations, notably by race, gender, and socio-economic status, and in fact reflect or reproduce disparities in evidence in other contexts. Using examples from class (lectures, sections, and/or the readings) argue for two interventions that you think are among the most important in promoting more inclusive outcomes in the design and/or deployment of the technologies they develop.

3. There is increasing concern that the “culture” of particular Silicon Valley companies and VC firms - like many other industries in the United States - privileges the perspectives of white men over people of other backgrounds. Imagine you are launching a new start-up and want to establish an inclusive culture. What concrete steps would you take in designing and launching the company to create a culture that recognizes the value of diverse perspectives and experiences?

4. Once recognized as the seedbed of technology, Silicon Valley is now seen as the poster-child for gross inequality -- both in terms of the extraordinary wealth it has generated for the skilled few and the disparities that have been exacerbated between those in tech and their neighbors in the region, particularly communities of color. What obligations, if any, do companies have to address the extreme disparities that are manifest in the communities in which the companies are based? What tools do they have at their disposal? Why should (or shouldn’t) we think of these obligations as applying to companies rather than government?