



# Welcome to CSE 440/441/540

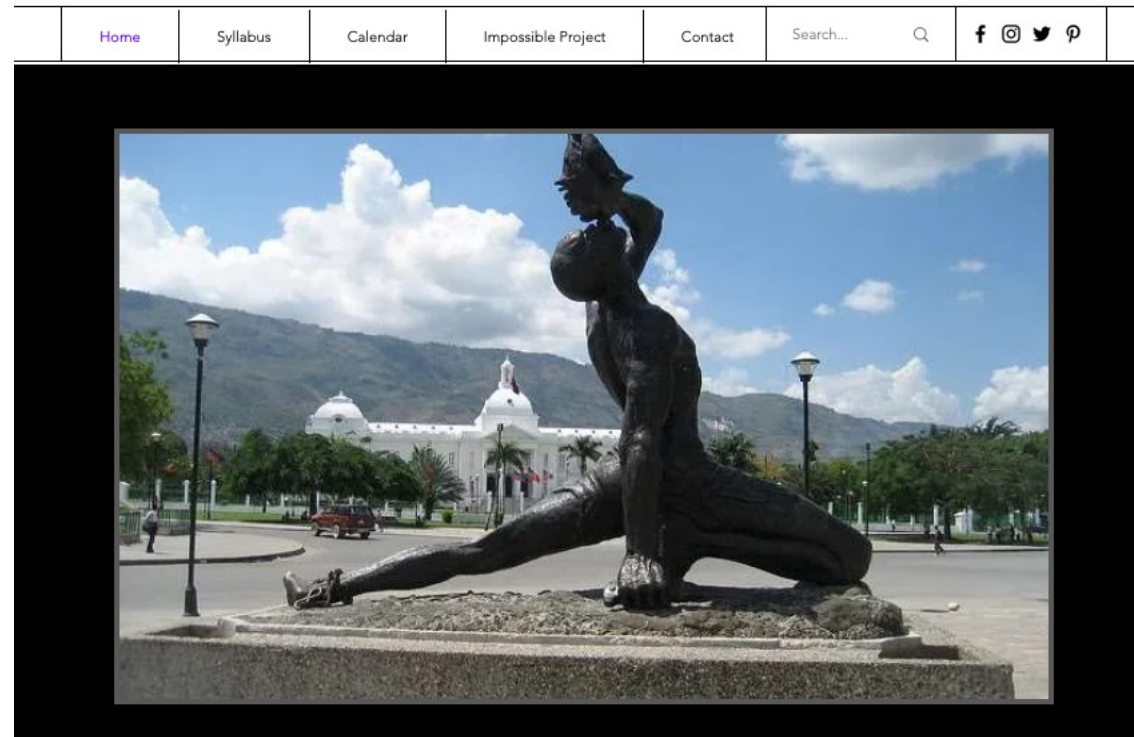
## ML and Society

In Collaboration with

Rage Against the Machine  
(HIS 419/550)

The course is in collaboration with...

# Rage Against the Machine



# Dr. Dalia Muller

# IMPOSSIBLE project

THINKING AT THE LIMITS  
OF THE POSSIBLE,  
TOGETHER.

## SCHOLAR • CREATOR • FACILITATOR

*I am the child of racial, cultural and linguistic crossroads, fitting everywhere and nowhere at once.*

*I am a scholar whose work strains against boundedness, seeking always to transgress.*

*I am an educator who knows that I am not "the teacher,"*

*and I am an inhabitant of this world who understands that justice work,  
as a matter of everyday practice*

*requires a degree of bravery, a level of creativity, and a depth of collective work that is difficult to sustain.*

*It is for this reason that I founded the [Impossible Project](#). The mission of the Impossible Project is to foment, support and sustain the co-creation of transformative learning experiences that empower students to imagine just futures for our world and planet, and call those futures into being.*





Akash

Kiran

They said I could  
have candy if I put  
my arm around the  
baby

Owen &  
Micah



Why are you  
touching me get  
off me

# Our office hours

Kenny

**Mondays: 11:30-12:20pm (335 Davis)**

Atri

**Thursdays: 2:00-2:50pm (319 Davis)**

(There'll be OH this week)

Things to remember

ATTEND, SUBMIT ALL THINGS ON TIME!

DO NOT CHEAT!

READ CAREFULLY!

Take care of yourself!

Be respectful of your classmates!

# Academic Dishonesty

All your submissions must be your own work

Penalty:

Minimum: An **grade reduction in course**

Possible: **F** (or higher penalty) if warranted

**YOUR** responsibility to know what is cheating, plagiarism etc.

If not sure, come talk to me

Excuses like “I have a job,” “This was OK earlier/in my country,” “This course is hard,” etc. **WON’ T WORK**

**WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PATIENCE WITH ANY CHEATING :**

**YOU WILL GET A GRADE REDUCTION IN THE COURSE  
FOR YOUR FIRST MISTAKE**



# Generative AI Policy

In short, the course policy for the use of Generative AI is that any use of a Generative AI tool for any purpose in the tool **must be explicitly approved by either Atri or Kenny**. This includes, but is not limited to, the need for explicit approval to use Generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT) to help with writing and to ideate on projects. **Failure to follow this policy will result in a violation of the Academic Integrity rules for this course.**

Some notes on this policy:

- This is not us saying that the use of Generative AI is off limits, but rather that there are good and bad uses from an instructional perspective, and we want to discuss these uses with you.
- We are unlikely to approve the use of ChatGPT to “fix” one’s writing - we’d rather just see your writing, imperfections and all, than a filtered version of it!

# Accessibility Resources

## Information included in the syllabus

In short, let us know and consult with [Accessibility Resources](#)

# Preferred Name

If you prefer using name diff from UB records

Let us know and we'll make a note of it.

# Critical Campus Resources

## Critical Campus Resources

### Sexual Violence

UB is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and stalking. If you have experienced gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), UB has resources to help. This includes academic accommodations, health and counseling services, housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and assistance with reporting the incident to police or other UB officials if you so choose. Please contact UB's Title IX Coordinator at 📞 716-645-2266 for more information. For confidential assistance, you may also contact a Crisis Services Campus Advocate at 📞 716-796-4399.

### Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. These might include strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, health concerns, or unwanted sexual experiences. Counseling, Health Services, and Health Promotion are here to help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn more about these programs and services by contacting:

#### [Counseling Services](#) ↗

120 Richmond Quad (North Campus), 📞 716-645-2720

#### [Health Services](#) ↗

4350 Maple Road (at Sweet Home Rd.) , 📞 716-829-3316

#### [Health Promotion](#) ↗

114 Student Union (North Campus), 📞 716-645-2837

# One Stop-shop for the course

**cse.buffalo.  
edu/rage-  
mlsoc**

RAGE +  
ML&Society

[Homepage](#)

[Course Schedule](#)

[Impossible Project](#)

[Instructors](#)

[ML & Society](#) ∨

[Rage](#) ∨

🔍 Search RAGE + ML&Society

[Impossible Project](#)

[2023 ML&Society Website](#)

[2023 RAGE Website](#)

## Welcome!

This is the combined homepage for the courses **Rage Against the Machine: HIS 419/500** and **ML and Society CSE 440/540**. The course, like the homepage, is combined, and is taught as a semester-long Impossible Project!

**LOOKING FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE IMPOSSIBLE PROJECT APPROACH TO TEACHING?**

Head [here!](#)

## Important Links

On the left-hand side of the page, you'll find a number of useful links. Make sure to take a look at all of them! But here is a list of some of the important ones:

- The [Impossible Project](#) page is the place to go for all things about the **COMBINED** semester-long course project!
- The [Syllabus for ML and Society](#) is the place to go for all things about **ML-SOC** course policy.
- The [Syllabus for RAGE](#) is the place to go for all things about **RAGE** course policy.
- Off-site, we'll be using [Piazza](#) for (combined) class-wide discussions.

**FEEDBACK IS MORE THAN WELCOME!**

If you have any feedback about the course content, please email them to [Dalia](#), [Kenny](#) and/or [Atri](#).

# Schedule for Both Courses

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

This page is still under construction. In particular, nothing here is final while this sign still remains here.

## Introduction

Wed, Jan 24:

**RAGE**

**Introduction**

**PRE-SURVEY**

done in class

**ML-SOC**

**Introduction**

**PRE-SURVEY**

done in class

Sun, Jan 28:

**GROUPS ASSIGNED**

**by 11:59pm**

Mon, Jan 29:

**COMBINED**

**Building True Collaboration**

**(workshop)**

Wed, Jan 31:

**COMBINED**

**White Supremacy (Group discussion)**

Graphic Recorder [Yen Azarro](#) visit

**RAGE**

[Reading Reflection](#)

due

# Class outline

## Grading Policy

Here is the split of grades:

Course Component	% of grade
Impossible Project	50% (10 per unit, 20 for the finale)
Attendance	10% (with important caveats, see below)
Discussion Summaries	9% (3% each)
Class Discussion Participation	$2 \times 2 + 3 \times \frac{2}{3} = 6\%$ (2% and $\frac{2}{3}\%$ each for two <b>ML-SOC</b> and three <b>RAGE</b> discussions resp.)
Unit Midpoint Submissions	21% (7% each)
Course pre/post surveys	4% (2% each)
Bonus	Up to 5%

# Grading Scheme

All submissions in this course will be graded manually by us and we will use the following “level” system. For each question/part of an assignment, the student’s submission will be graded at one of the following levels:

- Level 0: This means the student gets 0% of the points. This is for submissions where the student shows zero comprehension: either in understanding the problem or of its solution.-
- Level 1: This means the student gets 25% of the points. This is for submissions where the student does show some comprehension of the problem and/or the required solution but there is at least one flaw that cannot be repaired.-
- Level 2: This means the student gets 50% of the points. This is for submissions where the student gets the main idea but there are still flaws that can be repaired but only with a lot of extra work.-
- Level 3: This means the student gets 80% of the points. This is for submissions where the student has got the main idea but the execution is a bit faulty. However, these faults could be fixed without too much extra work.-
- Level 4: This means the student gets 100% of the points. The solution is almost perfect.



# Instructions are not “suggestions”

## SUBMITTING THE DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Your submission is due **as a PDF of at most one(1) page** on [Autolab](#). The submission is **due by 11:59pm of the Saturday BEFORE the in-class discussion**. **You must submit a discussion summary for all the items as a whole if there is more than one assigned** (if there are multiple items then they would be fairly closely related to each other).

## THIS IS AN INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION

The discussion summaries are individual submission. You should **not be collaborating with anyone else** on the discussion summaries. Additionally, the **Academic Integrity policy on the use of Generative AI** also applies; see the syllabus for details.

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Here is the split of grades for the various parts of discussion summary (for a total of **100 points**):

- **THOUGHTS** : 30 points.
- **QUESTIONS** : 30 points.
- **EPIPHANIES** : 40 points.

## EACH DISCUSSION SUMMARY IS WORTH 3% OF YOUR GRADE

There will be three (3) discussion summary submission (see the [calendar](#) for the specific dates). Each discussion summary is worth **3%** of your final letter grade.

# Attendance is critical

Attendance points are **all or nothing**. Moreover, violating the attendance policy means that **your grade in the course will be at most a B+**. To receive full points (and avoid the letter grade limit), **both of the following must be true**:

- 1 **You do not miss more than three classes.** This includes the late policy and leave-early policy below. *Excused absences still count as missed classes, this is why we allow you to miss three!* If you have an exceptional circumstance in which 1) *all* of your absences are excused, and 2) you miss more than three classes, we will address the issue at that point.
- 2 **You have no unexcused absences during the third week of a unit** These combined courses are the most critical components of the course. We want you there.

# Attendance, additional notes

## LATE POLICY

We understand that sometimes it might be hard to get to class on time but if you are **more than three (3) minutes late, you will be considered late to the class.** *Two lates will be counted as one absence.*

## LEAVE EARLY POLICY

If you just leave the class before it ends, then you will lose the attendance for that day as well.

## BRING AN INTERNET CONNECTED DEVICE

**Please bring a device so that you can connect to the Internet in class since attendance will be on Autolab.** During the lecture, we will show you a pass phrase, which you will have to enter into [Autolab](#). *Please refrain from sending this information to your friends if they are not in class.* Doing so would be considered an academic integrity violation, which would lead to a failing (F) grade

# Attendance on Autolab

AUTO LAB

You need to sign in before continuing.

<https://autolab.cse.buffalo.edu/>



Welcome to Autolab

Please sign in to continue

Students and Faculty

SIGN IN WITH SHIBBOLETH

CSE IT Staff

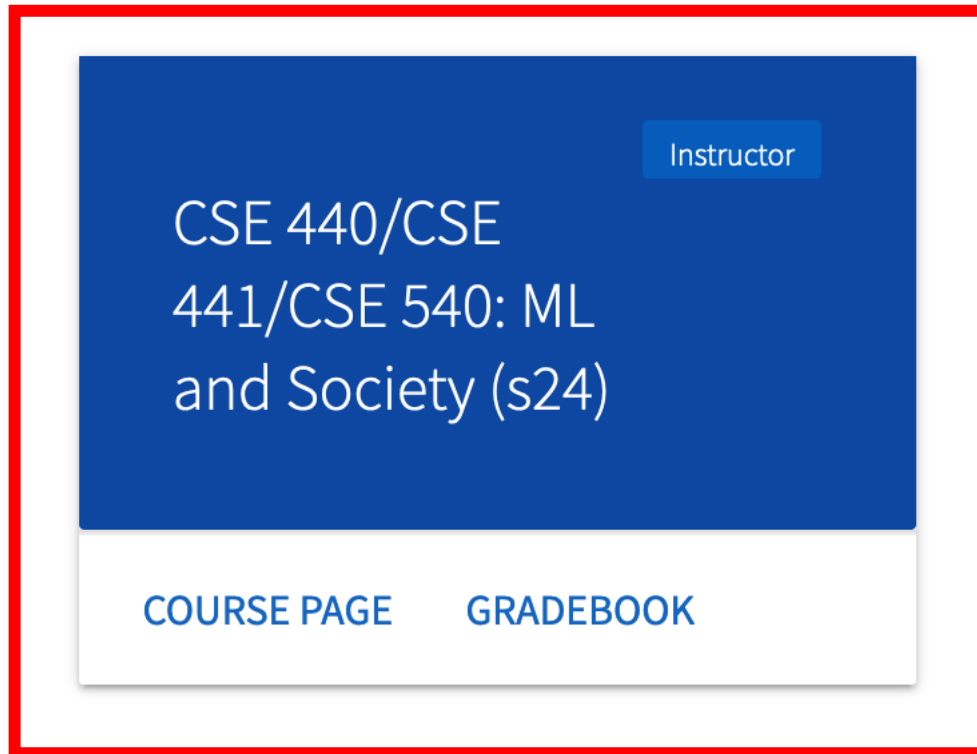
MORE OPTIONS

This is what you should see when you login

# Courses

Current 

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Instructor

CSE 440/CSE  
441/CSE 540: ML  
and Society (s24)

[COURSE PAGE](#) [GRADEBOOK](#)

# You should see a link for attendance

## CSE 440/CSE 441/CSE 540: ML and Society (s24)

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Section:

Number of grace days remaining: 0



COURSE WEBSITE



GRADEBOOK

## Assessments

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Attendance

**January 24**

Start: Jan 23 at 10:00am | Due: Jan 24 at 10:45am

# You need to enter a pass-phrase

---

What is the pass phrase for today?

---

I affirm that I have complied with this course's academic integrity policy as defined in the syllabus.

**SUBMIT**

---

# Pass-phrase for today: Joy Buolamwini



Fast Company Cover - Most Creative People in Business



Coded Bias Documentary (Netflix/PBS)



Ted Talk - 1M+ views Fighting Bias in Algorithms



#DecodeTheBias Olay Campaign



# If you need a reminder

## Autolab

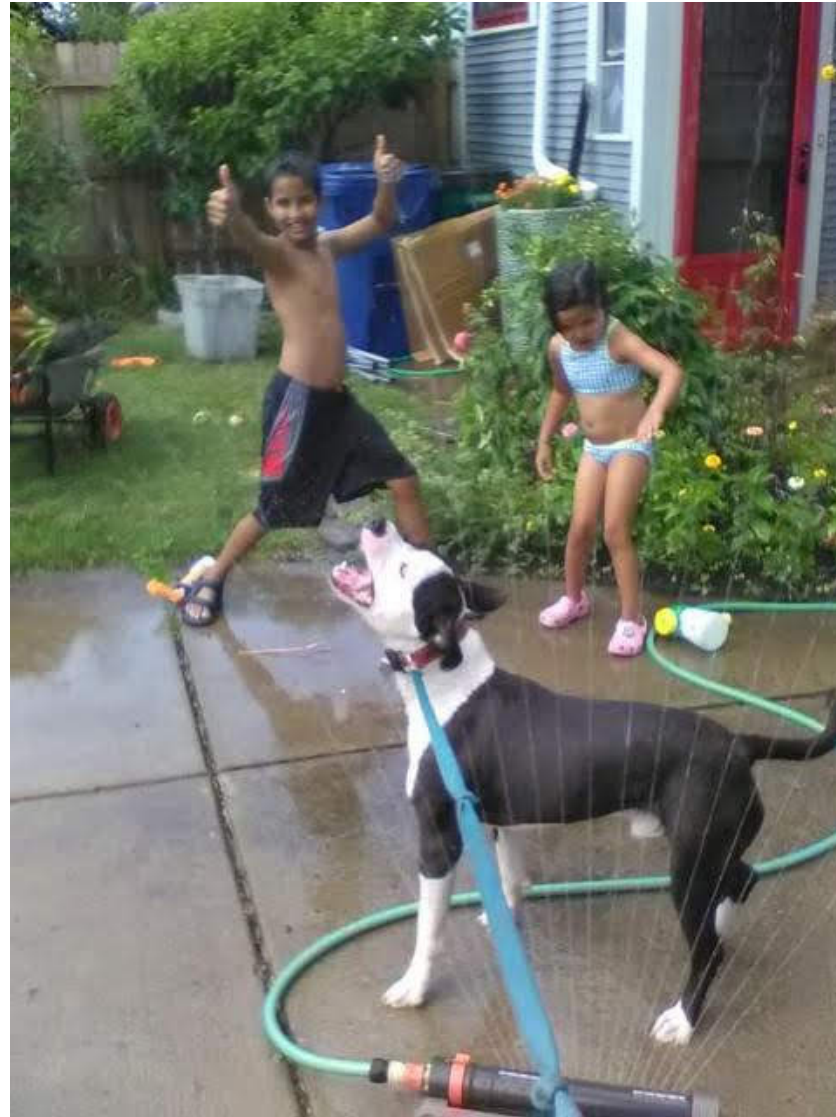
### THE LINK TO AUTOLAB

We will be using the UB CSE extension to [Autolab](#) for submission and grading of ML and Society assignments, attendance and project. You can access Autolab via <https://autolab.cse.buffalo.edu/>.

### AUTOLAB LOCATION HAS CHANGED SINCE SUMMER 23!

If you had used Autolab *prior* to the fall 2023 semester then you had used the previous version, which is still available at <https://autograder.cse.buffalo.edu>. You can access your old classes there but from Fall 2023 semester onwards, please use the updated location: <https://autolab.cse.buffalo.edu/>

More course logistics in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of today



# Pre-course survey

<https://bit.ly/rageml-presurvey>



# Read the syllabus carefully!

[ML & Society](#) / Syllabus

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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## PLEASE NOTE

It is **your responsibility** to make sure you read and understand the contents of this syllabus. If you have any questions, please contact the instructor.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

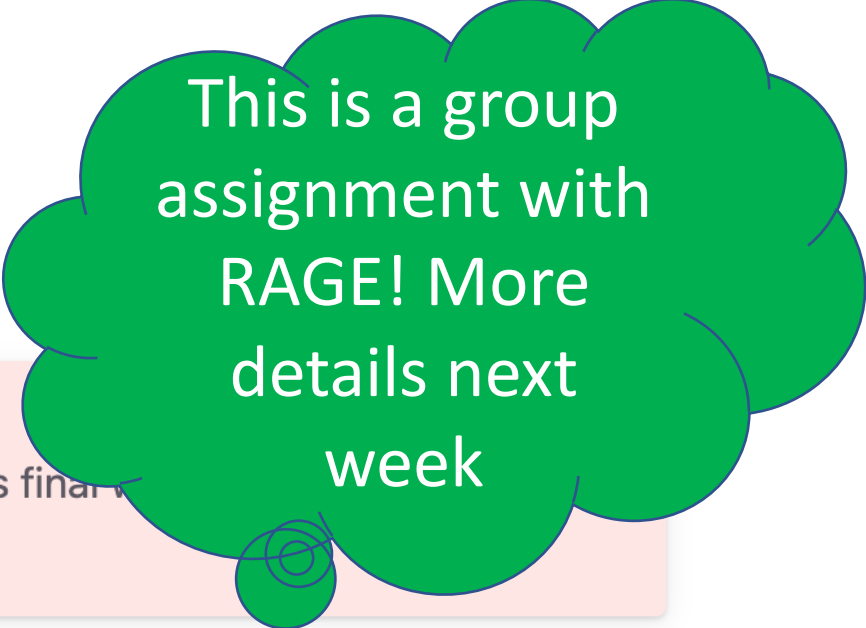
- 1 [Basic Course Information](#)
- 2 [Course Description](#)
- 3 [Credits](#)
- 4 [Instructors](#)
- 5 [Academic Integrity](#)
  - a [Penalty for Violations](#)
  - b [Generative AI Policy](#)
  - c [Policy on improper distribution of course materials](#)
- 6 [COVID-19](#)
- 7 [Companion Class](#)
- 8 [Pre-requisites](#)

# Impossible Project

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

This page is still under construction. In particular, nothing here is finalized here.

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This is a group assignment with RAGE! More details next week

## What is the Impossible Project?

The [Impossible Project](#) is a radical pedagogical paradigm created by [Prof. Dalia Muller](#). Y'all are in for a treat since this Impossible project collaboration with Dr. Muller's [Rage Against the Machine](#) and Kenny+Atri's [ML and Society](#) course.

Questions/Comments?



# TQEs and Discussions

## In-class discussions

In-class discussions will be based on a (set of) paper(s), video(es), and/or podcast(s). The paper/video/podcast(s) will be assigned at least a week in advance of the in-class discussion. **By default you are supposed to read/watch/listen the entire paper/video/podcast** (we will post on Piazza on what exactly we expect y'all to read if this is *not* the case). Further, y'all are supposed to **read/watch/listen BEFORE coming to the in-class discussion**. In the spirit of trust but verify, y'all will have to submit a *TQE Response* before the class (for more details on this, see below). During the class, everyone is expected to actively participate in the class discussion on the assigned reading (for more details on this, please see below.)

### **THERE IS NO "RIGHT" ANSWER**

As y'all will see in many parts of the course there will not be a "right" answer. This is more so in the case of the in-class discussions. The discussion are not for you to say *what you think we want you to say* but rather they are an opportunity for us (and the rest of the class) **to hear what YOU think about the topic**. So please participate accordingly!

# Unit Midpoint Submissions

## Overview

Every unit, your team will be required to submit a **UNIT MIDPOINT ASSIGNMENT**. These will be **team assignments**.

These submissions will always have four parts:

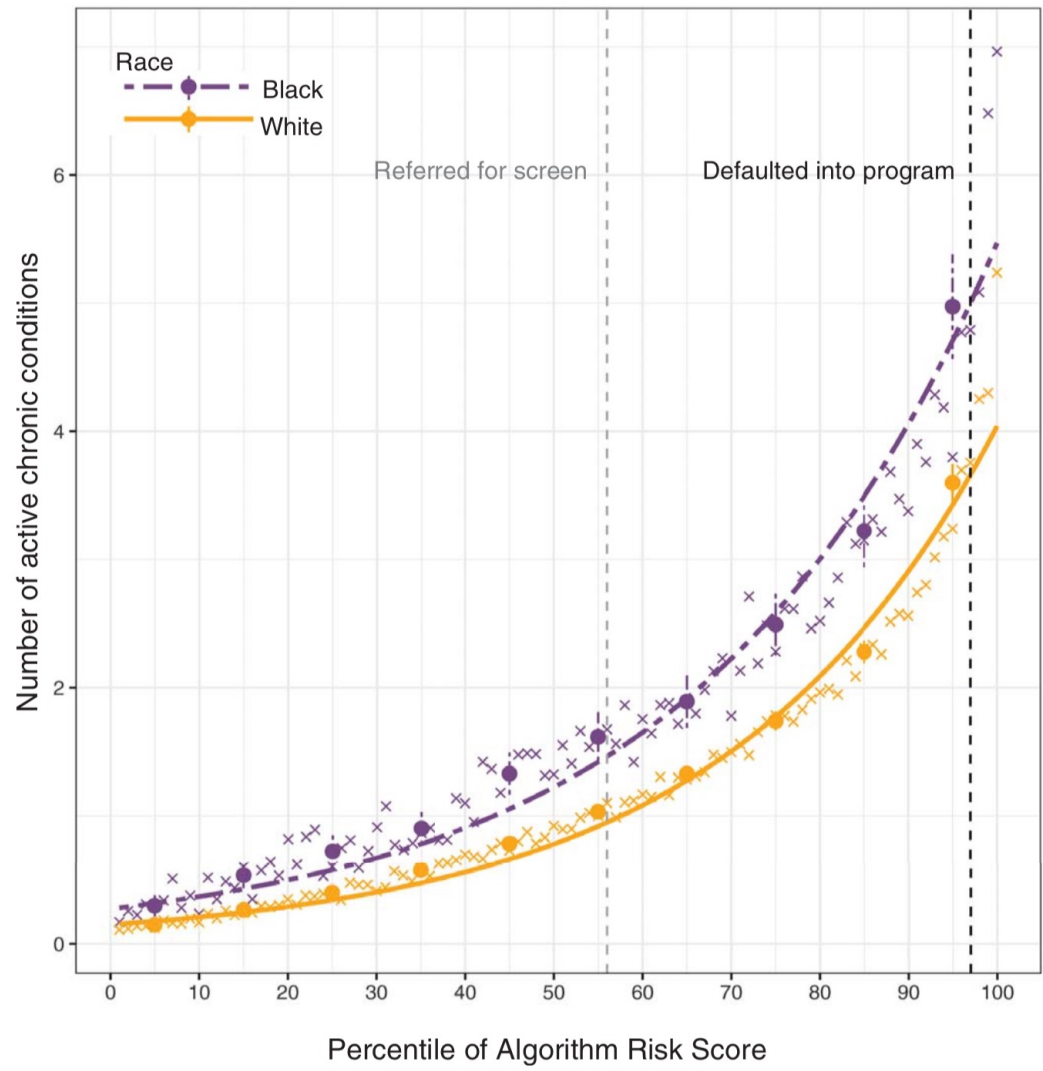
- 1 In **PART ONE**, you'll gain a better understanding of the unit's case study by answering a series of "Why" questions that move us beyond just "the algorithm is biased. Part One will be worth 2% of your final grade.
- 2 In **PART TWO**, you will be asked to complete an assignment that does not focus specifically on your project, but is rather an extension of the material that you learned in class. Part Two will be worth 3% of your final grade.
- 3 In **PART THREE**, you will be asked to connect what you have learned in class to your semester-long project. Part Three will be worth 2% of your final grade.
- 4 Finally, you will be required to provide a **TEAM PARTICIPATION STATEMENT**. This statement, which all team members should agree to, will provide information on which team members completed which parts of the assignment. This will not be graded, **but submissions without the Team Participation Statement will receive an automatic zero (0) on both Part One and Part Two.**



Why this course?



A



**Fig. 1. Number of chronic illnesses versus algorithm-predicted risk, by race. (A)** Mean number of chronic conditions by race, plotted against

# One Month, 500,000 Face Scans: How China Is Using A.I. to Profile a Minority

In a major ethical leap for the tech world, Chinese start-ups have built algorithms that the government uses to track members of a largely Muslim minority group.

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Where the Tweets have no name liked



**Anna Lauren Hoffmann** @annaeveryday · 33m

How it started:

How it's going:



1

60

147



Melonie Gage