CS-141 Introduction to Programming
Tech News Group Discussions and Weekly Assignments

The goal is to research, present, and discuss current issues concerning technology and our society.

Learning Objectives: Students will learn about cutting-edge technology, potential impacts of such new technology to society, and limitations of such technology.

Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate recognizing cutting-edge technology, analyze how it may impact society, and identify potential ramifications of the new technology deployment.

These assignments and discussions count towards 5% of your grade in the course.

Participant's Responsibilities

Your responsibilities each week (unless otherwise specified by your instructor) are to complete the reading assignments on time and participate fully during the group discussions. During the group discussions, you will be responsible for critically analyzing and discussing articles addressing key technological, social or political issues related to the topic. Be prepared to synthesize your readings and discuss results and analysis during class. You need to read the ACM tech news feeds 3 times per week (http://technews.acm.org/). The tech news feed delivers a digest of a dozen or so computing and technology news events. Each week you are to select one of the news items that interests you and enter the following into the *blogger* on the *CS-141* WISE course page (login at http://wise.willamette.edu):

1. For the blogger **Title:** Enter the *exact* title of the tech news item as listed on **http://technews.acm.org/**. For example, *Virtual and Artificial, but 58,000 Want Course*.
   Do not pick an article if it has already been entered into the blogger by 2 other students.

2. For the blogger **Keywords**: Enter several keywords that you think are appropriate for this article. This will help us track, over the course of the semester, articles that appear on related topics.

3. For the blogger **Links**: Enter the link to the tech news abstract (e.g. http://technews.acm.org/archives.cfm?fo=2011-08-aug/aug-17-2011.html#536607). Use the tech news title as the link description. This link makes it easy for others to access the tech news item and follow its link to the full article. Please check to make sure the link is correct after you have saved the blogger entry.

4. For the blogger **Text**: Enter the following

   a. A short paragraph explaining why you found this news item of interest, considering the technological, social and/or political aspects of the item

   b. Two or three open ended questions[*] the news item prompted you to consider.

[*]An open-ended question is one that does not have a simple or yes/no answer. These questions are typically used to facilitate discussion and deeper thought. In the context of this course, open ended questions force the use of concept and capability knowledge. Open ended questions may address an important idea or concept, they may address the participant's opinions and/or reactions to the issues addressed in the article, and they may draw relationships between other issues or topics.

The above must be completed each week *before* the beginning of the week's *first* lecture.

Group Discussion Responsibilities

At the beginning of the first lecture of each week (unless otherwise specified by your instructor), the class will have a group discussion based on what was entered in the blogger. Individual students will be asked to present to the group which news item they found interesting, why it was interesting, and present the open ended questions they developed about the item. *Each student is expected to present at least twice over the course of the semester. Assignments entered late into the blogger cannot contribute to the class discussion and so will not be given full credit.*

In the group discussions you should try not to dominate any discussion. Instead, ask questions and contribute ideas to encourage further discussion. The discussion should naturally extend from one comment to another, not consist of several disjointed opinions (no matter how valid they may be). Don't be afraid to offer your opinion to the group's discussion.