## Honors 299: Computers and Society

## **Reflective Paper**

## **Paper Instructions:**

- Write a paper reflecting on your experience learning to program in Python and how it relates to your own view of computers and technology as well as to the topics discussed in the class. Some examples of questions you may want to address are:
  - What was the experience of learning to write computer programs like for you? Was it hard or easy? Were you surprised by anything you learned (including what you learned about yourself)?
  - Did the process of learning to program computers give you any new insights into the way you interact with computers and other devices (e.g. iPhones, etc)? What were those insights?
  - Did learning to program computers change your thinking about computers and technology? If so, how?
  - Can you relate what you learned about computer programming to the other topics we have been discussing in class? If so, what are the connections you see?
  - Do you think that your knowledge of computer programming will be useful to you in the future (whether or not you actually write any more computer programs)? If so, how?
  - Can you think of a way that your knowledge of computer programming will be relevant to your Honors thesis research?
- Your paper should be written in the form of an essay. You should have a thesis statement, arguments in support of your thesis, and a conclusion. Use the questions to guide your thinking, but do not feel you need to answer all the questions, nor should your essay be a list of answers to the questions.
- The paper should be between 4-5 pages long, and will count for 10% of your final grade.
- The paper is due Tuesday, April 25
- You are responsible for informing yourself about, and adhering to, the College's standards of academic honesty, which means (in part) that you are responsible for using appropriate citations in your work. You may choose whichever citation format you like best, but you should use one of them. All sources that you consult for this assignment must be cited in this fashion, even if you only use them to "get ideas" for your paper. If you have a question about citations, please come see one of us.

## Formatting Guidelines

These guidelines are intended to institute fairness for all students, not to make your work harder. It will be a challenge to complete this assignment in such a short space, but that is part of the point; your ability to concisely answer a general question by using the best available sources is being tested.

- Your paper should include a cover page with a title and your name
- The first page of text should not contain your name or a title
- Double-space all work
- Skip no spaces between paragraphs (you may need to turn this off in Word)

- Use "Times New Roman" 12 font only
- You should use standard margins as set on Microsoft Word (specifically, your margins should be set to 1" on all sides of the paper)
- Your paper should be at least 4 pages (not 3 ½) and no longer than 5 pages long (I will count off at least 10 points for papers that are less that the full limit)
- Extended quotes (more than 4 lines of text) should be indented on the left, and shrunk to "Times New Roman" 10 font.