General Assignment Instructions

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Assignment Philosophy: AI-Assisted Grading and Peer Learning

This assignment utilizes a novel approach to grading and feedback designed for a large-scale, graduate-level course. The primary goal is to provide a structured way to assess creative, open-ended work at scale.

One component of this process is the **anonymous leaderboard**. It is a component of the learning experience. By reviewing and understanding the comparisons between different submissions, you will gain insight into what constitutes a high-quality submission and learn from the diverse approaches of your peers.

Grading Breakdown

Your final grade will be based on a single rubric. In the normal case, we will use AI to evaluate your submission against the rubric. For each rubric category, there will be 5 levels corresponding to Excellent (100%), Good (90%), Satisfactory (80%), Okay (60%), and Poor/Incorrect (0%). In addition, we will add a **10% AI Adjustment** to every grade that is automated by AI to account for AI mistakes. If you request a manual regrade request, your submission will be assessed according to the rubric but without the AI adjustment (*Note: Your score could go down simply because the AI adustment is removed due to manual regrade.*). For example, if you complete the assignment satisfactorily and accept the AI grading, you will receive a 90% (80% + 10% AI adjustment).

The Anonymous Leaderboard

A private, anonymous leaderboard will be published. This leaderboard will show the binned ranking of all submissions, identified only by an anonymous ID. You will be able to see the text of every submission and, crucially, the AI-generated comparisons and justifications used to rank them. This system uses a ranking algorithm (e.g., Elo rating) based on these pairwise comparisons to determine the final class-wide ranking.

Regrade Request Policy

Given the scale of the class and the nature of the AI-based grading, regrade requests must demonstrate a clear and significant error in the grading. The burden of proof is on the student that the original grade was incorrect according to the rubric.

To request a regrade, you must submit a request using a **private Piazza post within one week** of grades being released. The request must meet the following requirements:

1. **Submitted as private Piazza post to ALL Instructors** - You must submit a private Piazza post and include **ALL** instructors so that one of the TAs can manually regrade your submission.
2. **Original submission, Evaluation, and Explanation for Request** - You must include the original submission text, the AI-based feedback evaluation and a clear explanation for the regrade request. You can use screenshots if easier than copying in.
3. **Within one week of grades being posted** - The request must be submitted within one week of the grades and feedback being posted.

Important: A regrade request triggers a full manual review according to the rubric and the AI adjustment will be removed. The manual review may result in your final score **increasing, decreasing, or staying the same.**

Anonymity and Data Use Policy

Anonymity: You are strictly prohibited from including any Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in your submission. This includes your name, student ID, email, or any other identifying details. All submissions will be displayed to other students in the class on the anonymous leaderboard.

Data Use: By submitting this assignment, you understand that your submission may be used in the following ways:

1. It will be processed by third-party AI systems (e.g., Google's Gemini models) for the purpose of grading and ranking.
2. It will be shared anonymously with all other students in the course via the leaderboard.
3. It may be selected and displayed in class lectures as an anonymous example for discussion (this may include both high-quality and low-quality examples).

By clicking "I acknowledge" below, you affirm your understanding of and agreement with all the policies described above, including the use of AI for grading, the specific regrade request procedure, and the public, anonymous display of your work to your peers and in lectures.

(X) I acknowledge.

( ) I do not acknowledge and understand that I will receive a 0 on the assignment.

(Not used for grading, just to understand usage! You are free to use AI tools however you wish per the syllabus.) Which of the following ways did you use AI-based tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, Grammarly) to help you with this assignment? *Please select all that apply.*

[X] **Brainstorming and Ideation:** To generate ideas for topics or angles for my analysis.

[X] **Finding Sources:** To help locate or suggest news articles.

[X] **Comprehension:** To summarize or explain complex concepts within the articles for my own understanding.

[X] **Content Generation:** To draft initial sentences, paragraphs, or summaries that I then edited and incorporated into my work.

[X] **Editing and Refinement:** To improve my own writing for grammar, clarity, style, or to meet the character limit.

[X] **Technical Assistance:** To get help with Quarto markdown formatting or other technical questions.

[ ] **I did not use any AI-based tools** for this assignment.

The text of your **anonymous** submission following the instructions, format and character limit specified above. Make sure to not include any personally identifiable information. *Note: Any characters beyond the character limit will be truncated when grading.*

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