Due: at the beginning of class on Friday, January 27, 2023

Points Possible: 10 points total (5 points for the Reading Response & 5 points for discussion)

Objective

Completing the readings before class and giving them a little thought ahead of time will help move the discussion along during class time as we will all have a common starting point. Reading responses are opportunities for us to:
- process and organize our thoughts before we try to engage in meaningful (and sometimes difficult) conversations about the material.
- practice explaining new/eye-opening/confusing/uncomfortable topics, which in turn will help us be better prepared for civil discourse.

Tasks

Read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 (39 pages) of *Weapons of Math Destruction* by Cathy O'Neal. Then, type a response demonstrating that you have completed and given thought to the reading. Come to class prepared to discuss your thoughts and observations of the reading.

Your response should identify the major topics and claims, provide a summary in your own words, and offer connections to your own experience (or lack thereof), reflections, questions, etc. Try to make your thoughts flow in a logical order, i.e., do not just type a list of unrelated statements. Bring your reading materials, notes (as you read and *re-read*, you should take detailed notes of the content and your thoughts!), and a physical copy of this reading response to reference during discussion.

You may want to consider the questions below to help you get started. However, do not just go down this list of questions and provide answers.[1] Again, you should try to make your thoughts flow in a logical order (using paragraphs, like a mini-paper).
- What are the main points of the reading? What ideas is the author trying to get across?
- What claims does the author make? What arguments and evidence does the author give in support of their claims? Why does any of it matter?
- To what extent do you find those arguments convincing? Is there anything that you feel the author has left out?
- How does this argument connect to other themes in our class?
- What questions do you have left over when you are done reading?

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[1] Special thanks to Prof. K in the History Department and Professor Hitchman at UNI.