

Extra Credit Assignment

CMSC 304 / Fall 2015 / Holly Buck

Due Dec. 4, 11:59 p.m.

Literature is a key means of imagining the future: describing possible trajectories, articulating alternatives. In this assignment, you'll be writing a **book review** which highlights the treatment of **social & ethical issues in information technology** within a work of fiction. This paper should:

- not be summary, though some very brief summary is okay
- explain which social and ethical issues the work deals with, and how the author does this
- critique the author's position on those issues and / or execution of dealing with them: what works, and how does it work? what might be missing?
- some reflection on how the book affected you personally / your reaction is okay, but it shouldn't be the main focus
- the book review should advance your own thesis or interpretation of the work

Aim for 1000 words, +/- 200.

This extra credit assignment is worth up to 3% of the final grade.

The recommended work to review is *The Circle* by Dave Eggers.

If you prefer, you may also review George Orwell's *1984*, William Gibson's *Neuromancer*, Isaac Asimov's *I, Robot*, or Christine Seifert's *The Predicteds*. Other titles may also be acceptable, but you must first send me an email with a paragraph explaining the social or ethical issue in IT the work is addressing, for my approval.