Gamer Gate
Upcoming deadlines

- Friday, October 24
  - First draft of resume
  - Assignment/submission instructions send via email to TA for your section
  - Include [CMPS170] in the subject
  - Portfolio due week of Nov. 17th (most likely, stay tuned for actual deadline)
Upcoming Deadlines - Pitches

- Tuesday, October 28, Thursday, October 30
  - Second game pitches in class
  - See notes online for format
  - Must create slides using Google Slides presentation software, save them in Google Drive
  - Presentation order now on Piazza

- Thursday, November 6, Saturday, November 8
  - Third game pitches in class

- Note that second and third pitches must be brand new game concepts
  - To re-visit a game concept, do this in the second chance pitches
Update pitching process

- **Definite**
  - Having fewer required elements – almost all are now not required
  - Allowing optional (max 5 page) page document that can describe game elements in more detail
  - Instructor and TAs will select games at the end of all pitches
    - No games selected mid-stream
Gamer Gate Overview – Trigger 1

- August 2014
  - Eron Gjoni, former boyfriend of game developer Zoe Quinn (Depression Quest), writes rambling jilted lover blog post (August 16)
  - Quinn also had relationship with Kotaku journalist Nathan Grayson
  - Gjoni accused Grayson of providing positive coverage of Depression Quest due to relationship with Quinn

- Facts:
  - Quinn did apparently have a relationship with Grayson while also having relationship with Gjoni
    - This appears to be the extent of her romantic relationships
  - There was apparently **never** any coverage of Depression Quest by Grayson.
Anita Sarkeesian releases episode in Tropes vs Women series
- Criticizes games for using women as sexualized background decoration

Sarkeesian has been a highly polarizing figure ever since her Kickstarter campaign for Tropes vs Women
- Has been the subject of very nasty threats almost constantly since this time

Combination of Quinn + Sarkeesian appears to inflame anti-feminists hanging out on 4chan, reddit and other lists
Despite complete lack of evidence of journalistic lapse by Grayson, a major part of Gamer Gate started to focus on journalistic ethics.

- August 18: post of Quinnspiricy Theory discussing cronyism in gaming media
- Revelations come out that some game journalists had contributed small sums of money to support Quinn’s Patreon account
- Kotaku editor Ben Kuchera had donated to Quinn prior to writing an article about Depression Quest
- August 26: Kotaku posts statement about updated ethics, prohibiting Patreon-style donations
Gamer Gate hashtag

- Actor Adam Baldwin (Jayne in Firefly/Serenity) tweeted about the Quinnspiricy videos, using the hashtag \#GamerGate
Backlash

- August 28 – End of Gamers
  - Multiple sites publish articles about the end of gamers as an identity
  - Gamasutra, Polygon, Kotaku, many others

- September 1 – Open Letter
  - Open letter to the games community asking for a stop to the harassment of critics and developers
#NotYourShield

- A hashtag intended to show that many minorities also support Gamer Gate
- I.e., the movement is not just misogynistic white males
- Sept. 4: Quinn posts chat logs that indicate #notyourshield is a jamming tactic to spread disinformation
4chan censorship

- Starting mid-September, many posts on 4chan about Gamer Gate were removed

- September 19: Christopher Poole, 4chan founder, removed all GamerGate threads from the site
  - Violated no personal information / raids / calls to invasion rules

- Mass exodus to 8chan as a result
More harassment

- Brianna Wu doxxed, threatened, leaves home

- Anita Sarkeesian cancels USU talk due to multiple specific death threats
  - Due to Utah law, police cannot screen for weapons, or prevent people from carrying weapons into theater

- #stopgamergate hashtag starts use
Harassment / Hostile Work Environment

- Harassment of other students is not ethically or legally OK
  - Includes stalking
  - Repeated unwanted advances

- Hostile work environment not ethically or legally OK
  - Wide variety of things can create
  - Pin-up screensavers
  - Sexually explicit or minority focused jokes
  - Exclusion of people from activities

- If you ever feel uncomfortable working in the game lab, or are experiencing harassment, please contact me