Midterm Instructions

For the Midterm, you will write an 8 - 10 page, double-spaced paper.

Please choose one of the below two options as your writing prompt and indicate which prompt you've chosen at the top of your paper.

From the course syllabus -

● Guidelines for papers:
  ○ Your name should appear on the first page of the text in the upper right-hand corner.
  ○ Please limit each paper to no more than 10 double-spaced 8 ½ x 11 pages with standard margins for the Midterm.
  ○ Additional exhibits (beyond the assigned page limits) are welcome, provided they are not simply an extension of your writing and contain specific analyses or information that is relevant, yet too detailed, for the body of the paper.
  ○ Papers should be submitted on Sp23 Canvas site under Assignments no later than the due date. Assignments turned in the day of, but following the due date time will have their grade reduced by one full grade. Papers turned in following that day will be penalized an additional full grade for each subsequent day overdue.

● General criteria (in order of importance) for evaluation of the papers
  ○ Depth and quality of analysis and demonstration of critical thinking,
  ○ References to and incorporation into your analysis of the course materials, text, readings and class discussions,
  ○ The applicability of the selected topic to this assignment,
  ○ The clarity and organization of the material and the brevity and conciseness with which you can make your point.

Writing Prompts (choose one):
**Prompt Option #1 - Propose a DAO Concept (and launch plan)**

Imagine and design a novel DAO concept that addresses a specific problem or opportunity. In your paper, please address the following aspects:

- Clearly define the problem or opportunity your DAO aims to address and explain why a DAO structure is better suited for this purpose compared to traditional organizational structures. Discuss the unique benefits and potential challenges of using a DAO in this context.
- Outline the technical considerations for implementing your proposed DAO.
- Discuss the legal considerations and challenges of launching and operating your proposed DAO.
- Propose a community-building strategy for your DAO, detailing how you would attract and engage members to participate in the organization's governance and operations. Explain the governance mechanisms your DAO would employ, including voting rights, decision-making processes, and conflict-resolution strategies.
- Reflect on the potential long-term impact of your proposed DAO on the problem or opportunity it addresses, as well as any broader implications for the industry or society it operates in.

In your paper, draw from the course material, online literature, real-world examples, and your own analysis to support your arguments. Be creative and innovative in your approach while addressing the key aspects mentioned above.

**Prompt Option #2 - Analyze the Current State of DAOs**

Provide a comprehensive analysis and opinion on the current state of DAOs, focusing on their technical architecture, novel structure, opportunities, and potential use cases. In your paper, please address the following aspects:

- Assess the pros and cons of DAOs as a new organizational structure, discussing their strengths and weaknesses in comparison to traditional organizations. Consider factors such as decision-making efficiency, transparency, and trust.
● Analyze the most interesting and innovative aspects of DAOs' technical architecture. Discuss how these features contribute to the unique characteristics of DAOs and their potential advantages over traditional organizations.

● Identify and discuss the opportunities presented by DAOs, both in terms of specific industries and broader societal impacts. Explain how DAOs could potentially transform these areas or create new possibilities for collaboration, innovation, and value creation.

● Evaluate the use cases that are best suited for the application of a DAO structure. Explain why these particular use cases benefit from the unique aspects of DAOs, and discuss any challenges or limitations that might arise.

● Reflect on the unique challenges of managing groups of people, building community, and fostering collaboration in a novel fashion (in this case, in a non-hierarchical, decentralized structure, using novel technologies). Explore potential solutions or strategies to address these challenges.

In your paper, draw from the course material, online literature, real-world examples, and your own analysis to support your arguments. Be thoughtful and critical in your assessment of the current state of DAOs, and consider both their potential and their limitations.