

**PHI 234/POL312 – PHILOSOPHY OF LAW/JURISPRUDENCE**

**PASS/FAIL ASSIGNMENT – DUE MAY 12**

Read ProPublica's article "Machine Bias" and Mayson's article "Bias in, Bias Out". You can also have a look at the my post on the course website about algorithmic fairness. Please answer the following questions:

- (a) What is COMPAS?
- (b) Why does ProPublica say that COMPAS is biased against blacks? What notion of bias is ProPublica relying on?
- (c) Explain the distinction between statistical parity (Mayson, p. 2242), predictive parity (Mayson, p. 2243), equal specificity (Mayson, p. 2243) and equal sensitivity (Mayson, p. 2244). If it is helpful, this think through Figure 4 on page 2242.
- (d) What are base rates and why are they important (Mayson, p. 2233-2239)?