

JOU 3365: AI in Media and Society

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1:00pm-3:00pm

PROFESSOR

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OFFICE

3067 Weimer Hall

REQUIRED RESOURCES/READINGS

All readings will be posted to Canvas or available via UF library access

COURSE DESCRIPTION

AI in Media and Society (JOU 3365) introduces students to the history and current applications areas of artificial intelligence (AI). Topics to be covered include (1) a historical overview of AI as a field, (2) contemporary use cases of AI in media and society more broadly, and (3) ethical considerations for AI, among other topics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Course objectives include (1) familiarity with key concepts related to AI, (2) the ability to identify the dominant use cases of AI in journalism and society, and (3) the knowledge necessary to have an informed opinion of AI limitations and biases.

GRADING

Quizzes: 20%

AI essay: 20%

Midterm exam: 30%

Final exam: 30%

Grading scale: A, 100-93; A-, 92-90; B+, 89-87; B, 86-84; B-, 83-80; C+, 79-77; C, 76-74; C-, 73-70; D+, 69-67; D, 66-64; D-, 63-60; E, 59 and below

Information on current UF grading policies can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

ASSIGNMENTS

Exams (60%): Two exams will be completed during the semester: one midterm exam and one final exam. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. The exams will cover key course content covered during lecture and from class readings. The format and timing of the exam will be summarized during the semester.

Quizzes (20%): Quizzes will be conducted sporadically throughout the semester. Students will be given at least one week notice prior to the administration of the quiz. The quiz will cover course content from recent class material. Quizzes will be timed and conducted on Canvas.

AI essay (20%): Students will be asked to write a research-based essay that further examines one of the topics discussed during the semester. The essay should be between 5-10 double spaced pages. More information about the format and prospective topics for the essay will be discussed during the semester.

LATE WORK POLICY

One letter grade (-10 points) will be deducted per day for work submitted past the assignment's deadline. If an assignment or exam is missed, official documentation must be provided for the absence, with a makeup test or deadline scheduled within one week of the original deadline. If students anticipate that they will be unable to meet a deadline due to university documented issues (e.g., health condition, death in family), please contact me as soon as possible to arrange an extension. In general, I am quite willing to work with students when issues arise that prevent you from submitting work on time.

HONOR CODE POLICY

This class strictly adheres to the UF honor code. Any prohibited behavior such as plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade for the assignment in question and referral to the honor court, who may administer additional penalties such as a failing grade for the course or dismissal from the college. More information about the university honor code is available online at the following link: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMODATIONS

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Schedule

Week 1: Course Overview

Week 2: Defining AI, Part 1

Week 3: Defining AI, Part 2

Week 4: History of AI, Part 1

Week 5: History of AI, Part 2

Week 6: AI and Society, Part 1

Week 7: AI and Society, Part 2

Week 8: Midterm Review

Week 9: Midterm exam

Week 10: AI and Ethics, Part 1

Week 11: AI and Ethics, Part 2

Week 12: The Future of AI, Part 1

Week 13: The Future of AI, Part 2

Week 14: University holiday; no class

Week 15: Final Exam Review

Week 16: Final exam