



Artificial Intelligence 510: Seminar in AI Ethics

Fall 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Charles Woods

Pronouns: he/him/his

Email: charles.woods@tamuc.edu

Office Location: Talbot Hall of Languages 326/Online

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm and by appointment

Phone: 903-886-5260

Meeting Information: modality for this Fall 2024 section of AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics is online, and the delivery is asynchronous.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbooks

- Crawford, Kate. (2021). *Atlas of AI: Power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence*. Yales University Press. ISBN: 9780300264630
- **[OPEN ACCESS VIA D2L]** Stahl, B.C., (2021). *Artificial Intelligence for a Better Future: An Ecosystem Perspective on the Ethics of AI and Emerging Digital Technologies*. Springer.
- **[OPEN ACCESS VIA D2L]** Stahl, B.C., Schroeder, D., Rodrigues, R. (2023). *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: Case Studies and Options for Addressing Ethical Challenges*. Springer.

Additional Required Materials

1. Course readings (articles, excerpts) made available via D2L
2. Digital storage (flash drive, cloud storage, etc.)

Note: You should check your email and D2L daily for updates pertaining to AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics

Hours: 3

From the catalog: As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to transform various aspects of our lives, it becomes imperative to examine the ethical implications of its development, deployment, and impact on society. This course is a topical seminar designed to engage students in critical discussions surrounding the ethical challenges and dilemmas posed by AI technologies. Topics may vary, but may include: bias and fairness; transparency and accountability; environmental sustainability; AI and social justice, legal implications, emerging technologies, case studies, privacy issues, ethical guidelines and policy development.

Student Learning Outcomes

Through a mixture of reading, writing, and discussion throughout the Fall term, students will:

- Demonstrate confidence discussing AI and ethics in a manner appropriate for your future academic or professional career;
- Identify the rhetorical use of AI in contemporary media and culture;
- Articulate the ethics surrounding major concerns/dangers of AI, especially in terms of human dignity, racism, sexism, disability, labor, and environmental impact;
- Compose arguments/persuasive media that attends to AI in accountable ways;
- Define and attempt your own goals and learning objectives related to this topic.

Throughout this course, you and I will work together to interpret, revise, and remix these learning objectives and goals. That is, our goals are flexible and will necessarily change as we move through our course. We may struggle to achieve every goal we set, and that is okay! But, as your instructor, I provide the following resources to aid us in developing our critical reading, writing, and research skills:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You will need regular access to the internet, digital storage (hardware or cloud storage), a valid working TAMUC email address, knowledge of D2L, and a computer with a word processing software.

Instructional Methods

The modality for this Fall 2024 section of AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics is online, and the delivery is asynchronous. Students enrolled in AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics do not meet

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in person. We will follow institutional protocols if TAMUC reconsiders instructional methods during the term.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Your success in AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics is tied to active participation in digital spaces (D2L), including the completion of all readings, activities, and assignments throughout the course.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF REQUIRED WORK

As a student enrolled in AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics, expect to post regularly to discussion boards and other deliverables, hone their writing and research skills in an area of English Studies, and prepare a draft of an academic article for potential publication.

In brief, you will work through the following tasks each week. Further details are provided on the AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics Course Schedule document.

- Work weeks begin on Mondays. Part of your weekly readings/assignments is to view information from me (D2L Announcements) on that day.
- Research: Your research should be ongoing throughout the course. You should research in English Studies to complete activities and assignments for the course.
- Write: You will perform assignments designed to hone your understanding of researching and writing in English Studies. This includes discussion board posts, and writing assignments, among other activities.
- Discuss: Respond to your peers' writing and discussion boards as designated in the Course Schedule.

GRADES

Grading Scale

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

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Assessments

Memo of Introduction	5%
AI Sequence and Analysis	10%
Atlas of AI Forums (6)	30%
Ethics of AI Short Essays (3)	30%
Reflection Essay	5%
Final Project: AI 510 Annotated Bibliography	20%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

- LMS Requirements:
<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/BrightspacePlatform-Requirements>
- LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm
- YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:
<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/enus/articles/115007031107-Basic-SystemRequirements>

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ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC, the TAMUC library, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact the instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I will work to respond to emails quickly during the week since this is an asynchronous online class. Please nudge me with a second email if a considerable amount of time has passed and you have not heard from me.

Writing Center

The TAMUC Writing Center offers writers free, one-on-one assistance. We welcome all writers, majors, and disciplines—undergraduate and graduate students alike. In fact, we work from the premise that all writers, no matter their ability level, benefit from the feedback of knowledgeable readers. The Writing Center staff is trained to provide writers with just this service. In short, we are here to help you help yourself. The Writing Center offers one-on-one sessions with writers—both face-to-face and online—begin on the hour and last up to 45 minutes. You cannot sign up for back-to-back appointments (for instance, you cannot sign up for sessions at both 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.), but you may sign up for as many appointments as you'd like each day and week. For more information, visit <https://www.tamuc.edu/writing-center>

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus and course schedule are guides. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus and course schedule during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus and course schedule will be announced in advance.

Attendance Policy

As mentioned earlier, active participation is the key to success in this section of AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics. Therefore, timeliness is required for assignments. Consistently failing to actively participate or submit assignments on time will impede your ability to pass this class.

Late Work

It is imperative to our success as a class that your assignments are turned in on time. The acceptance and assessment of late work in this section of AI 510: Seminar in AI Ethics is on a case-by-case basis. Late work will result in a grade reduction at the discretion of the instructor. Consistently turning in late work will impede your ability to pass the class. Extensions for the final exam are unavailable and Incompletes are reserved for extreme circumstances.

Statement on Antiracism

This course discusses things like economic class, educational opportunities, and other aspects of access to literacy that present a racial disparity in America. It is the position of this class to identify such structural deficiencies as wrong. This subject will potentially cause some discomfort, so please be patient as we discuss these topics together. This course does not tolerate willful insensitive language with respect to sex, race, gender, or orientation, but does attempt to understand how things like racism and sexism create barriers for people.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

- [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
- [Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)
- <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>
- [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)
- <http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>
- <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Information

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 9038865868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit

www.tamuc.edu/counsel