

ENGL 395: Artificial Intelligence and Everyday Life

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Course description:

Artificial intelligence (AI) is everywhere, and it shapes our everyday lives. But how do we approach it critically, especially if we're not tech experts? As a response to this very question, this course focuses on the human and cultural dimensions of artificial intelligence. We'll talk about the history of AI as well as its roles in art, ethics, and even health. How, for instance, do we communicate with bots? How do we relate to them? And how are we responsible for the decisions they make?

By the end of the course, you will know how to compose scenarios for AI's ethical or humane uses. You will read current cultural research on AI, study a few AI projects, keep a journal to document your learning, review two popular AI projects, and propose an AI project you want to see in the world.

No technical expertise is required, and familiarity with AI will not be assumed.

Proposed assignments:

Course Journal	30%
Reviews of two Popular AI Projects	30% (15% each)
Proposal for an AI Project	40%

Proposed readings:

Crawford, Kate and Joler, Vladan. 2018. "Anatomy of an AI System: The Amazon Echo as an Anatomical Map of Human Labor, Data and Planetary Resources." Available at: <https://anatomyof.ai>.

Noble, Safiya. 2017. Lecture at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqelqddids> (on her book *Algorithms of Oppression*).

Onuhoha, Mimi, and Mother Cyborg (Diana Nucera). 2018. *A People's Guide to Artificial Intelligence*. (peoplesguidetoai.com).

Excerpts and projects from scholars and artists listed in the course description above (details TBD, will be available on CourseSpaces).