

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, LAW, ETHICS, AND POLICY
David Sella-Villa
Spring 2025

SYLLABUS (v1)

Welcome to Artificial Intelligence, Law, Ethics, and Policy (LAWS 851). I look forward to working with you this semester. I will do my best to make your experience in this course worthwhile, and in turn I will expect from each of you full engagement and dedication to learning together as an intellectual community.

Please read this syllabus carefully. It explains how the course will be taught and graded. I will update the syllabus from time to time.

Contact Information

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Office Location: Room 333

Hours: Mondays 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Wednesdays 2:00pm – 4:00pm, or by appointment

Class Meetings

Our class meets from 10:45am – 12:10pm in Room 395 on Tuesday and Thursdays. The first-class meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. There may be some class sessions when we do not meet in person. I will let you know in advance when those sessions will be. The course will also feature some guest lectures.

Learning Outcomes

Prior technical understanding is not required to succeed in this course. Artificial Intelligence, Law, Ethics, and Policy offers an overview of laws, policies, and ethical consideration governing the use of artificial intelligence (AI). The course begins with an introduction to the technologies in question. Students engage with the theoretical and ethical foundations of common approaches to AI governance to help them understand both current and future laws and policies. These concepts aid as the course examines comprehensive AI laws, sector specific AI laws, laws criminalizing certain uses of AI, formal policy statements directing government use of AI, and AI risk management frameworks. The course concludes with a series of case studies examining the governance options in areas particularly susceptible to disruption via AI. Examples might include education, and medicine. Throughout the course, students will engage with various readings encompassing primary sources, academic treatises, terms of service from AI providers, news articles, and popular works.

The American Bar Association standards for accrediting law schools require not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week for each credit awarded for a class. According to the standards, fifty minutes suffices for one hour of classroom time, while an hour for out-of-class time is sixty minutes. This is a three-credit class. That means that we will spend approximately 39 in-class hours together, and you should expect to spend at least 85 hours preparing for class, working on the short paper, and taking the final exam.

Class Structure & Grades

Each class will be a combination of lecture, class discussion, and review of hypotheticals and real-world examples. Discussion is necessary to enhance everyone's learning. The determination of your grade will be made as follows:

Class Participation – 20%

Short Paper – 20%

Final Exam – 50%

A portion of your Class Participation grade will come from a short team presentation. In groups of two or three, you will make a 10-minute presentation about a specific AI technology, describing its function and using the analytical tools you will learn in class. Though I may allow people to express a preference about who they might be partnered with, I reserve the right to group people at my sole discretion. Additional details will be provided in the first weeks of the semester. The first such presentation will take place no earlier than February 4, 2025.

The remainder of your Class Participation will be earned through active participation. Speaking up during class time counts as one form of active participation. Submitting written questions before or after class also counts as active participation. Bringing topical news stories to my attention, either via email or in person, to discuss in class also counts as active participation. Responding well if cold called counts as active participation. Please participate in the manner that you feel most comfortable. Your goal should be to show me that you are engaged with the material.

Both the Short Paper and Final Exam will need to be submitted via TWEN. Specific submission instructions will be provided for both the Short Paper and Final Exam. Both the Short Paper and Final Exam will be graded anonymously. **Please note – your AEGS number for your Short Paper will be different from AEGS number you will use for the Final Exam.**

The Short Paper instructions will be distributed in February and will be due March 3, 2025, at 5:00 pm. If you are late turning in the Short Paper, your grade will be reduced by one full letter grade per each 24-hour period of tardiness. This chart provides an example of how tardy submissions will affect grades.

Time submitted	Original Grade	Adjusted Grade
3/3, 4:50 pm	B+	N/A
3/3, 5:05 pm	B+	C+
3/4, 11:00 am	B+	C+
3/4, 10:00 pm	B+	D+

The Final Exam will be scheduled during the exam period. You will have 4 hours to complete and submit the exam. The exam will be open book. Late exam submissions will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. I reserve the right to score your exam a zero if it is submitted late.

In addition to your participation grade, I reserve the right to reduce your grade for failing to attend class regularly or by being disruptive to the learning environment in class.

Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

General Use

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, and the standards of the legal profession, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your references or footnotes). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty.

Additionally, please note that the Final Exam questions are being specifically designed with the limitations of AI tools in mind. If a student simply submits AI-generated answers without adding language reflective of his or her own critical thought or creativity, the student will likely receive a low grade for that portion of the Final Exam.

Short Paper

On the Short Paper, you will be required to use an AI tool as part of the paper assignment. Specific instructions on how to use the AI tool and how to incorporate its outputs into the assignment will be provided in the Short Paper instructions.

Blackboard

All students are enrolled on the Blackboard course website. The Blackboard site will contain announcements, the syllabus, reading materials, and the short paper assignment. Please check Blackboard regularly.

I will use the Course Content Section to post materials that we will review in class. To prepare for class you only need to read the assignments listed in the syllabus. You will be expected to access Blackboard during class to review the other materials.

Reading Assignments

There are three (3) primary texts for the course. The one you were instructed to purchase is:

- AI SNAKE OIL, by Arvind Narayanan & Sayash Kapoor (2024) [Snake Oil]. Either the tangible or electronic version are acceptable for this course.

The other two texts are available online through the law library. Accordingly, you will have to be logged into the University's systems to access these books online. They are:

- BUSINESS DATA ETHICS: EMERGING MODELS FOR GOVERNING AI AND ADVANCED ANALYTICS, by Dennis Hirsch, Timothy Bartley, Aravind Chandrasekaran, Davon Norris, Srinivasan Parthasarathy & Piers Norris Turner (2023) [Hirsch et al.] – available [here](#).
- AI ETHICS, by Mark Coeckelbergh (2020) [Coeckelbergh] - available [here](#).

The reading assignment for each week of class are listed below. ***Please check the page numbers carefully.*** Any reading assignments not included in the primary texts are listed under “Other Reading” and will be provided to you on Blackboard in the Course Content section. I will also use the Course Content Section to post materials that we will review in class. To prepare for class you only need to read the assignments listed in the syllabus. You will be expected to access additional materials on Blackboard during class.

Week #	Class Meeting Dates	Topics	Text Sections or Pages	Other Reading
1a	Tu. 1/14	<u>Defining the Course:</u> Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, Law, Policy, and AI Hype	Coeckelbergh, pgs. 63-74 Snake Oil, pgs. 21-26, Chpt. 7 Hirsch et al., Chpt. 4	Gartner 2024 Hype Cycle for Emerging Technologies Highlights Developer Productivity, Total Experience, AI and Security Research Data Lifecycle Kenneth W. Abbott & Duncan Snidal, <i>Hard and Soft Law in International Governance</i> 54 INT'L ORG. 421 (2000), pgs. 421-24 (When reading this article please imagine the discussion of hard and soft law in the context of "artificial intelligence technology providers," instead of international actors.)
1b	Th. 1/16	<u>Understanding & Distinguishing AI Technology:</u> Machine Learning, Generative AI, Predictive AI, Other Applications	Coeckelbergh, Chpt. 6 Snake Oil, pgs. 60-67, 99-122, 129-139	Future of Privacy Forum, <i>The Spectrum of Artificial Intelligence</i> (June 2023), pgs. 8-19 (please skip "Generative Adversarial Networks and Generative AI") ChatGPT tokens explained in 5 minutes (2023 tutorial) [Video] What are Transformers (Machine Learning Model)? [Video]
2a	Tu. 1/21	<u>Ethical Principles:</u> Accountability & Transparency	Coeckelbergh, Chpt. 7 - 8 Hirsch et al., Chpt. 5 Snake Oil, chpt. 2	IEEE Std 7001-2021, IEEE Standard for Transparency of Autonomous Systems (4 March 2022), Sections 3-4, pgs. 14-17

2b	Th. 1/23	<u>Ethical Principles:</u> Fairness	Coeckelbergh, Chpt. 9 Hirsch et al., Chpt. 10	Deborah Hellman, Measuring Algorithmic Fairness, 106 VA. L. REV. 811 (2020), pgs. 820-22, 828-46
3a	Tu. 1/28	<u>From Principles to Policies:</u> Available Tools	Hirsch et al., Chpt. 6	Rebecca Crootof & BJ Ard, <i>Structuring Techlaw</i> , 34 HARV. J.L. & TECH. 347 (2021), pgs. 357-59 & 379-86 IEEE Std 7001-2021, IEEE Standard for Transparency of Autonomous Systems (4 March 2022), Section 5, pgs. 18-30
3b	Th. 1/30	<u>From Principles to Policies:</u> Challenges	Coeckelbergh, Chpt. 10-11	Jennifer Cobbe, Michael Veale & Jatinder Singh, <i>Understanding accountability in algorithmic supply chains</i> , FACCT '23: PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2023 ACM CONFERENCE ON FAIRNESS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND TRANSPARENCY (June 12, 2023), Sections 3 & 4 Black, Emily and Koepke, John Logan and Kim, Pauline and Barocas, Solon and Hsu, Mingwei, <i>Less Discriminatory Algorithms</i> , 113 GEO. L. J. 53 (2024), pgs. 61-72