Understanding Human-Centered AI

Course number: I320U (Unique ID: 28394)
Time: 5-6:30 pm CT Mondays and Wednesdays
Location: SZB 4.618
Office hours: 12-1 pm CT Fridays (https://utexas.zoom.us/j/92177328196). It can also be scheduled upon request.

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Course Description
Artificial intelligence (AI) advances have changed how decisions are made in organizations, governments, and everyday life. This course will introduce principles and methods to design human-centered AI. Students will learn topics such as AI's psychological and societal impacts, design guidelines and methods for AI user experiences, AI biases and fairness, robots, and chatbots.

Note: This course is about human-centric theories and methods for envisioning AI systems. It will provide no technical insight into machine learning, data mining, or statistical pattern recognition.

Learning Outcomes
- Be aware of emerging AI applications in society
- Understand the impacts of AI applications on people, organizations, and society.
- Understand principles and methods for designing human-centered AI
- Practice reflecting critically on the use of AI in society, identifying problems, and having a constructive stance

Prerequisite for the Course
Informatics 310U

How Will You Learn?
Statement of Learning Success
Your success in this class is important to me. We all learn differently, and everyone struggles sometimes. You are not, ever, the only one having difficulty. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we will develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through UT, and I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like. Students who are struggling for any reason and believe that it might impact their performance in the course are urged to reach out to Bryce Moffett (iSchool CARE counselor) if they feel comfortable. This will allow her

to provide any resources or accommodations that she can. If immediate mental health assistance is needed, call the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) at 512-471-3515 or you may also contact Bryce Moffett, LCSW (iSchool CARE counselor) at 512-232-4449. Bryce's office is located in FAC18S and she holds drop-in Office Hours on Wednesday from 2-3pm. For urgent mental health concerns, please contact the CMHC 24/7 Crisis Line at 512-471-2255.

Teaching Modality Information

The main learning in this class happens through active discussion and in-class activities as well as homework and projects. Thus, attending the class 5-6:30 pm CT Mondays and Wednesdays is critical. The course will not be recorded, and there will be no alternative to synchronous attendance other than normal emergency accommodations.

Communication

The course Canvas site can be found at utexas.instructure.com. Please email me directly or through Canvas. You are responsible for ensuring that the primary email address you have recorded with the university is the one you will check for course communications because that is the email address that Canvas uses.

Asking for Help

You can ask questions to me or the TA and arrange individual meetings with us via Canvas.

Disability and Access (D&A)

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Disability & Access (D&A). Please refer to the D&A website for more information: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/. If you are already registered with D&A, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

Course Requirements and Grading

- Required materials: All course readings will be available via the course Canvas site.
- Required devices: You must bring your laptop to the class to complete in-class activities during the class. Access to the computer is needed to complete the homework and project.
- Classroom expectations
  - Class attendance & participation: The main learning in this class happens through active discussion and in-class activities as well as projects. Thus, attending the class 5-6:30 pm CT Mondays and Wednesdays is critical. The course will not be recorded, and there will be no alternative to synchronous attendance other than normal emergency accommodations.

- ○ <u>Behavior expectation</u>: Please make sure to be engaged and respectful and to contribute to discussions. The behaviors described in [Section 11-400 of the Institutional Rules](#) are prohibited.

Assignments

1. **Attendance & active participation.** Students are expected to attend every class. Every student should demonstrate ongoing engagement in class, including lectures and discussions. Attendance takes 10%, and active participation takes 10% of the overall grade. Absences will result in losing both attendance and participation points.

Attendance
- Coming to the class more than 7 minutes later the start time (i.e., 5:07 pm CT) will be considered late, and the 20% of the points will be deducted. Coming to the class after 5:30 pm CT or leaving the class early without the instructor's approval will be considered absent and will get zero points.
- Absences will only be excused in situations following university policy (illness, religious holy days, participation in University activities at the request of university authorities, and compelling absences beyond your control) with proper documentation and timely notification (prior to class for non-emergencies).

Active participation
- Activities that hurt the learning experience (for both self and others), including but not limited to watching videos, playing games, browsing social media, and taking naps, will result in the deduction of the participation point.
- You must submit and/or ask questions for guest speakers in advance or during the guest lecture.

2. **In-class activities**. Some weeks will involve in-class activities. In-class activities include discussion activities as well as worksheet activities prepared by the instructor and the TA. Some activities will be expected to be finished in class time, while others will be expected to be taken home and completed after the class and submitted by 1 pm CT Fridays. The incompletion of the activities will result in a partial or zero score.

3. **Individual homework.** Individual homework will be assigned. Most homework will be given one week to complete and need to be submitted by 1 pm CT Fridays.

4. **Group project.** You will work on a group project for the second half of the class. Detailed guidelines are documented in the Project Guidelines document.

5. **Teamwork peer evaluation**. We will conduct a teamwork peer evaluation survey at the final for your group project. In the survey, you will be asked to evaluate your teammates, including yourself, and your collaboration experiences. The survey results will be factored into the group project grade, which may result in different team project grades for different students. For

example, if a student has not contributed to the team project consistently, the student will get a lower team project grade than their teammates.

Assignments	Percent of Total Grade
1. Attendance & active participation	20%
2. In-class activities	20%
3. Individual homework	30%
4 & 5. Group project & peer evaluation	30%

Late Work and Extensions
We will use a limited extension method on our assignment deadlines (i.e., reading reflection questions, weekly reflections, in-class activities, and projects), which we call Extra Hours. This is to provide you with some flexibility for times of heavy workload, minor illness, job interviews, conference travels, and other exceptional yet often predictable circumstances. You will have a total of 120 Extra Hours for the entire semester, and you may apply Extra Hours to most assignments. The Extra Hours will be deducted in one-hour increments. This means that if you upload your assignment 122 minutes late, it will use up 3 Extra hours. You can use at most 36 Extra hours (1.5 days) for a given assignment. Assignments more than 36 hours late will not be accepted. If a group assignment uses Extra Hours, every member's hour will be deducted. Extra Hours *cannot* be applied to the final group project presentations.

When you use Extra Hours, please send an email to the TA after you submit the assignment, indicating how many hours you used for which assignment and how many Extra Hours are left up to that point. The TA will check the submission and update the record. Please remember to email the TA promptly within one hour of your submission. Not sending the email may result in the assignment point deduction.

Extra Hours are not to support procrastination. Late submissions should only occur in exceptional circumstances. If you use up your Extra Hours and seek further extensions, you will first need to provide acceptable justifications for all Extra Hours that you used. Late submission after you use up the Extra Hours or late submission of the presentations will have points deducted.

Absences
Absences will result in a reduction of attendance and active participation grade. Absences will only be excused in situations following university policy (illness, religious holy days, participation in University activities at the request of university authorities, and compelling absences beyond your control) with proper documentation and timely notification (prior to class for non-emergencies).

+/- Grading Policy and Grade Breaks
+/- grades will be used for the final class grade.

Grade	Cutoff
A	94%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	84%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	74%
C-	70%
D+	67%
D	64%
D-	60%
F	<60%

For detailed information about what grade is required for you to receive credit for this class, please refer to UT's Catalog.

Course Outline

The detailed, up-to-date course outline is [here](#) and also posted on canvas. Changes to the schedule may be made at my discretion if circumstances require. I will announce any such changes in class and will also communicate them via a Canvas announcement. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced, and I will do my best to ensure that you are notified of changes with as much advance notice as possible.

Policies

Course Policies and Disclosures

Honor Code

The University of Texas at Austin strives to create a dynamic and engaging community of teaching and learning where students feel intellectually challenged; build knowledge and skills; and develop critical thinking, creativity, and intellectual curiosity. As a part of this community, it is important to engage in assignments, exams, and other work for your classes with openness, integrity, and a willingness to make mistakes and learn from them. The UT Austin honor code champions these principles:

I pledge, as a member of the University of Texas community, to do my work honestly, respectfully, and through the intentional pursuit of learning and scholarship.

The honor code affirmation includes three additional principles that elaborate on the core theme:
- I pledge to be honest about what I create and to acknowledge what I use that belongs to others.
- I pledge to value the process of learning in addition to the outcome, while celebrating and learning from mistakes.
- This code encompasses all of the academic and scholarly endeavors of the university community.

The honor code is more than a set of rules, it reflects the values that are foundational to your academic community. By affirming and embracing the honor code, you are both upholding the integrity of your work and contributing to a campus culture of trust and respect.

Academic Integrity Expectations

Students who violate University rules on academic misconduct are subject to the student conduct process. A student found responsible for academic misconduct may be assigned both a status sanction and a grade impact for the course. The grade impact could range from a zero on the assignment in question up to a failing grade in the course. A status sanction can range from a written warning, probation, deferred suspension and/or dismissal from the University. To learn more about academic integrity standards, tips for avoiding a potential academic misconduct violation, and the overall conduct process, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. The University is well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found on such sites that are associated with a specific student, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#) in the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). These reports can result in sanctions, including failure of the course.

Artificial Intelligence

The creation of artificial intelligence tools for widespread use is an exciting innovation. These tools have both appropriate and inappropriate uses in classwork. The use of artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT) in this class is permitted for students who wish to use them, provided the content generated by AI is properly documented and then, significantly edited and/or modified by students in order to capture the student's own ideas. The use of AI for proofreading is allowed and should be documented as well. If you are considering the use of AI writing tools but are unsure if you are allowed or the extent to which they may be utilized appropriately, please ask.

Confidentiality of Class Recordings

Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Getting Help with Technology

Students needing help with technology in this course should contact the [ITS Service Desk](#).

Absences

Excused Absence: The only absences that will be considered excused are for religious holidays or extenuating circumstances due to an emergency. If you plan to miss class due to the observance of a religious holiday, please let me know at least two weeks in advance. You will not be penalized for this absence, although you will still be responsible for any work you will miss on that day if applicable. Check with us for details or arrangements.

If you have to be absent, use your resources wisely. Ask your team and other classmates to get a run-down and notes on any lessons you miss. If you find there are topics that we covered

while you were gone that raise questions, you may come by during office hours or schedule a meeting to discuss. Email specific questions you have in advance so we can make the most of our time. "What did I miss?" is not specific enough.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence as far in advance as possible to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Names and Pronouns

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name, unless they have added a chosen name with the registrar's office. If you have not yet done so, I will gladly honor your request to address you with the name and pronouns that you prefer for me to use for you. It is helpful to advise me of any changes or needs regarding your name and pronouns early in the semester so that I may make appropriate updates to my records and be informed about how to support you in this class.
- For instructions on how to add your pronouns to Canvas, visit this site.
- If you would like to update your chosen name with the registrar's office, you can do so here, and reference this guide.
- For additional guidelines prepared by the Gender and Sexuality Center for changing your name on various campus systems, see the Resources page under UT Resources here.

Land Acknowledgment

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America. Moreover, I would like to acknowledge the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.

Important Safety Information

Title IX Disclosure

Beginning January 1, 2020, Texas Education Code, Section 51.252 (formerly known as Senate Bill 212) requires all employees of Texas universities, including faculty, to report to the Title IX Office any information regarding incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking that is disclosed to them. Texas law requires that all employees who witness or receive information about incidents of this type (including, but not limited to, written forms, applications, one-on-one conversations, class assignments, class discussions, or

third-party reports) must report it to the Title IX Coordinator. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX-related incident, please remember that I will be required to report this information.

Although graduate teaching and research assistants are not subject to Texas Education Code, Section 51.252, they are [mandatory reporters](#) under federal Title IX regulations and are required to report [a wide range of behaviors we refer to as sexual misconduct](#), including the types of misconduct covered under Texas Education Code, Section 51.252. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex – including pregnancy and parental status – in educational programs and activities. The Title IX Office has developed supportive ways and compiled campus resources to support all impacted by a Title IX matter.

If you would like to speak with a case manager, who can provide support, resources, or academic accommodations, in the Title IX Office, please email: supportandresources@austin.utexas.edu. Case managers can also provide support, resources, and accommodations for pregnant, nursing, and parenting students.

For more information about reporting options and resources, please visit: https://titleix.utexas.edu, contact the Title IX Office via email at: titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

Campus Safety

The following are recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the [Office of Emergency Management](#), 512-232-2114:

- Students should sign up for Campus Emergency Text Alerts at the page linked above.
- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus must evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- For more information, please visit the [Office of Emergency Management](#).

University Resources for Students

For a list of university resources that may be helpful to you as you engage with and navigate your courses and the university, see the [University Resources Students Canvas page](#).