Topics & Perspectives - AI, Art & Society

HUM 2833 (3 credits)
Professor: Marlon Barrios Solano
[Profile Link](#)
Email: mbarriossolano@ufl.edu
Location: Online
Day & Time: Tuesdays, 12:50 PM – 3:50 PM EST
Office Hours:Tuesdays, 11:50 AM – 12:50 PM
Course Content: Canvas - [Course Link](#)

Course Description

This course critically examines the promises and perils of artificial intelligence (AI) through media studies, critical race and gender studies, and the work of contemporary artists. Students explore the historical evolution of AI technologies, ethical and social implications, and human-computer interaction while analyzing artistic practices that subversively engage with AI.

The lab component focuses on research methodologies and documentation practices used in academic and industry contexts. Topics include computing history, the intersection of computers and culture, and future applications of AI.

Prerequisites: None

Course Goals

Students will:

• Develop a critical understanding of socio-cultural, political, environmental, ethical, and economic impacts of AI.

• Study the history and contemporary works of artists engaging with AI.

• Explore co-creation between human and non-human systems.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will:

• Engage in critical discussions about AI's societal impacts.

• Develop research methodologies to write effectively about AI and art.

• Apply critical reflections on AI to their creative practices.

Course Structure

- **Lecture/Discussion**: Context-setting and guided discussions on theoretical concepts.

- **Read/Respond**: Critical engagement with readings and videos.

- **Experience/Deconstruct**: Analyze AI-based projects and build a collective toolbox.

- **Workshops**: Hands-on collaborative project development.

Weekly Schedule & Topics

- **Week 1**: Introduction - Overview of AI, Art & Society

- **Week 2**: Algorithms of Oppression

- **Week 3**: AI & Race

- **Week 4**: Data Feminism & Queering AI

- **Week 5**: Techno-Orientalism

- **Week 6**: Critical & Human-Centered AI

- **Week 7**: Decolonial AI

- **Week 8**: Disability & AI

- **Week 9**: Environmentalism and AI

- **Week 10**: Surveillance & PSYOPS Capitalism

- **Week 11**: Journalism, Science, & Communication around AI

- **Week 12**: AI & Intellectual Property

- **Week 13**: Cyber-warfare and Weaponization of AI

- **Week 14**: Workshop - Speculative Design Co-Creation Process

- **Week 15**: Workshop - Proposal Development

- **Week 16**: Final Exam - Showcase & Critiques

Required Course Materials

- Canvas

- Slack

- GitHub

- Journal (Digital or Physical)

- Laptop (Mac or PC)

- Required Readings (provided as PDFs)

Recommended Reading List

- Meredith Broussard, *Artificial Unintelligence*

- Safiya Umoja Noble, *Algorithms of Oppression*

- Cathy O'Neil, *Weapons of Math Destruction*

- Yarden Katz, *Artificial Whiteness*

- Ruha Benjamin, *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code*

- Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, *Race And/As Technology*

- Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*

- Virginia Eubanks, *Automating Inequality*

- Kate Crawford, *Atlas of AI*

- Kat Cizek & William Ulricchio, *Collective Wisdom: Co-Creating Media for Equity and Justice*

Grading Policy

- **25%** Reading/Experience Responses

- **25%** Mid-term Paper

- **40%** Final Project

- **10%** Participation

University Grading Policies: Link

Key Projects

- **Mid-Term Paper**: A 10-page critical analysis exploring the ethical dimensions of AI, including bias, surveillance, autonomy, and transparency. Incorporate theoretical frameworks like design justice to propose ethical principles for AI.

- **Final Project**: Speculative co-design of an AI-driven subversive technology addressing societal issues. Focus on prototyping solutions that challenge cultural, social, and ethical norms.

Expectations

- Attend all classes on time. Two unexcused absences allowed; additional absences penalized.

- Actively participate in discussions and critiques.

- Devote 2–4 hours weekly to class projects and assignments.

- Communicate promptly via Slack or Canvas for questions.

Academic Integrity

Adhere to UF's Honor Code. Plagiarism and unauthorized aid will result in disciplinary action.

Additional Resources

- **Health & Wellness**:

    - U Matter, We Care: [Website](#) | 352-392-1575

    - Counseling & Wellness: [Website](#) | 352-392-1575

    - GatorWell: [Website](#) | 352-273-4450

- **Academic Support**:

    - UF Libraries: [Library Support](#)

    - Writing Studio: [Writing Help](#) | 352-846-1138

    - Career Connections Center: [Career Support](#)