浙江大學

COMP922

Artificial Intelligence, Society and Governance

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Instructor Contact Details

Lecturer-in-charge: Wenlong LI
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Office location: Huajiachi Campus, Zhejiang University
Consultation Time: to be announced, and by appointment.

Teaching Times, Modes and Locations

Course Duration: 28 Jun 2026 to 17 Jul 2026
Modes: Face-to-face
Location: Huajiachi Campus, Zhejiang University via face-to-face

Academic Level

Postgraduate

Units of Credit

The course is worth 6 units of credit.

Credit Hours

The number of credit hours of this course equals to the credits of a standard semester- long course.

Contact Hours

The course contains a total of 53 contact hours, which consists of orientation, lectures, seminars, quiz, discussion, research, case study, small tests, assignments, on-site field trip(s), in-class and after-class activities, revision, and final exam. Students will receive an official transcript which is issued by Zhejiang University when completing this course.

Course Description:

This unit introduces Artificial Intelligence (AI) from a societal and governance perspective, examining how contemporary AI systems are developed, deployed, and regulated across diverse domains such as industry, healthcare, business, public services, and everyday life. Rather than focusing on algorithmic implementation, the course explores AI as a socio-technical system, analyzing how intelligent agents interact with human decision-making, institutional structures, and social norms. Through case studies and interdisciplinary discussion, students will critically examine the social, ethical, legal, and policy implications of AI applications, including issues of accountability, fairness, transparency, risk, and governance. The unit equips students from science, engineering, business, and humanities backgrounds with the conceptual tools needed to assess the broader impacts of AI and to engage responsibly with AI-driven technologies in professional and societal contexts.

Prerequisite:

N/A

Learning Resources

- Russell, S.J., Artificial Intelligence, a Modern Approach. 4th edition, Pearson, 2021
- AI Ethics: A Textbook — P. Boddington (Ed.)

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify and interpret core concepts of artificial intelligence and explain how contemporary AI systems operate within different technical and application contexts.
- Seek, evaluate, and synthesize information from academic literature, policy documents, and real-world case studies to analyze the societal impacts of AI technologies.

- Apply appropriate analytical frameworks and methods to assess ethical, social, and governance challenges arising from the deployment of AI systems.
- Critically examine AI applications across domains such as industry, healthcare, business, and public services, recognizing their benefits, risks, and limitations.
- Formulate and communicate well-reasoned arguments regarding AI-related societal and policy issues, using evidence-based analysis in written and oral forms.
- Design feasible governance, policy, or organizational responses to AI-related challenges, taking into account technical constraints, social values, and regulatory considerations.

Course Delivery:

- Face-to-face Lecture mode includes lectures, seminars, quiz, discussion, research, case study, small tests, assignments, on-site field trip(s), in-class and after-class activities, revision, and final exam.

The following course will be taught in English. There will also be guest speakers and optional field trips available for students who would like to enhance their learning experience. All courses and other sessions will be run during weekdays.

Topics and Course Schedule:

WK	Topic	Activities
1	Introduction of Artificial Intelligence	Lecture; Tutorial
1	Historical Development of AI and Its Social Context	Lecture; Tutorial
1	How AI Systems Work: Perception, Reasoning and Action	Lecture; Tutorial
1	Machine Learning and Data-Driven Decision Making	Lecture; Tutorial
1	Human–AI Interaction and Natural Interfaces	Lecture; Tutorial
2	Distributed and Multi-Agent Systems in Society	Lecture; Tutorial
2	AI, Automation and the Future of Work	Lecture; Tutorial
2	AI in High-Risk Domains: Safety, Security and Autonomous Systems	Lecture; Tutorial
2	In-class Test	Closed book

2	Bias, Fairness and Accountability in AI Systems	Lecture; Tutorial
2	Adversarial AI and System Vulnerabilities	Lecture; Tutorial
3	Ethics of Artificial Intelligence	Lecture; Tutorial
3	AI Governance and Regulation	Lecture; Tutorial
3	Designing Responsible AI Systems	Lecture; Tutorial
3	Limits of Intelligence and the Future of AI	Lecture; Tutorial
3	Revision	Tutorial
3	Final Exam	Closed book

Assessments:

Class participation	15%
Class works	15%
Critical review	20%
Final exam	50%

Pass Requirement (Double Pass Rule)

To pass this course, students are required to achieve:
- an overall mark of 50% or above, and
- a pass mark (50% or above) in the Final Examination.

Students who achieve an overall mark of 50% or above but do not achieve a pass in the Final Examination will receive a fail grade for the course.

Grade Descriptors:

HD	High Distinction	85-100
D	Distinction	75-84
Cr	Credit	65-74
P	Pass	50-64
F	Fail	0-49

High Distinction 85-100

- Treatment of material evidences an advanced synthesis of ideas Demonstration of initiative, complex understanding, and analysis.
- Work is well-written and stylistically sophisticated, including appropriate referencing, clarity, and some creativity where appropriate.
- All criteria addressed to a high level.

Distinction 75-84

- Treatment of material evidences an advanced understanding of ideas Demonstration of initiative, complex understanding and analysis Work is well-written and stylistically strong.
- All criteria addressed strongly.

Credit 65-74

- Treatment of material displays a good understanding of ideas
- Work is well-written and stylistically sound, with a minimum of syntactical errors.
- All criteria addressed clearly.

Pass 50-64

- Treatment of material indicates a satisfactory understanding of ideas Work is adequately written, with some syntactical errors.
- Most criteria addressed adequately.

Fail 0-49

- Treatment of ideas indicates an inadequate understanding of ideas Written style inappropriate to task, major problems with expression.
- Most criteria not clearly or adequately addressed.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the university's academic honesty principles which are an integral part of the university's core values and principles. If a student fails to observe the acceptable standards of academic honesty, they could attract penalties and even disqualification from the course in more serious circumstances. Students are responsible for knowing and observing accepted principles of research, writing and any other task which they are required to complete.

Academic dishonesty or cheating includes acts of plagiarism, misrepresentation, fabrication, failure to reference materials used properly and forgery. These may include, but are not limited to: claiming the work of others as your own, deliberately applying false and inaccurate information, copying the work of others in part or whole, allowing others in the course to copy your work in part or whole, failing to appropriately acknowledge the work of other scholars/authors through acceptable referencing

standards, purchasing papers or writing papers for other students and submitting the same paper twice for the same subject.

This Academic Integrity policy applies to all students of the Zhejiang University in all programs of study, including non-graduating students. It is to reinforce the University's commitment to maintain integrity and honesty in all academic activities of the University community.

Policy

The foundation of good academic work is honesty. Maintaining academic integrity upholds the standards of the University. The responsibility for maintaining integrity in all the activities of the academic community lies with the students as well as the faculty and the University. Everyone in this community must work together to ensure that the values of truth, trust and justice are upheld.

Academic dishonesty affects the University's reputation and devalues the degrees offered. The University will impose serious penalties on students who are found to have violated this policy. The following penalties may be imposed:

- ✓ Expulsion
- ✓ Suspension
- ✓ Zero mark /fail grade
- ✓ Marking down
- ✓ Re-doing/re-submitting of assignments or reports, and
- ✓ Verbal or written warning