



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

KOGB01, Entanglements and Critical Perspectives on AI and Society, 3.5 credits

Entanglements and Critical Perspectives on AI and Society, 3,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2025-02-14 (U 2025/110). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-02-14 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

Subject: Cognitive Science

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

- G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- account for and explain key general concepts in AI: design, implementation, function and context of use and interaction possibilities of major AI-technologies, with a special focus on autonomous social agents (such as embodied robots or smart embodied devices),

Competence and skills

- explain key principles, limitations and critical stances presented by major critical theories of AI regarding: ethics, regulations, power structures, gender biases, social positioning and biases in synthetic data, sustainability and equity, human-driven rights and values,

Judgement and approach

- provide contrasting examples of how critical theories can be applied to design more ethical, sustainable and equitable AI technologies employed at home or in public contexts (schools, hospitals, workplaces).

Course content

The course is an introduction to Critical Theories on AI and Society. It aims at offering a theoretical background on critical and feminist approaches to technoscience, along with engaged reflections and practical examples on the challenges that our Western society is facing with regard to design and use of AI-technologies, from chat-bots to robot vacuum cleaners. In particular, the course will highlight current models and narratives behind AI-technology use in our society, and discuss the many entanglements and ethical dilemmas arising from the presence of these new technologies in humans' public and private spaces - from socio-emotional relationships between humans and artificial agents to biases in searching platform and generative data systems. The course will also offer insights on methods and practices that can make AI tools more sustainable and ethical and to better serve the public good.

Course design

The course includes lectures, one of which is a mandatory introductory session, and one mandatory research seminar.

The course is offered entirely as a distance learning course using an online learning platform and/or digital tools. Participants are required to participate under these conditions, and to have access to a computer with an internet connection as well as functioning speakers, microphone, and web camera.

Assessment

The course assessment consists of a home written assignment.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Entry requirements

General requirements

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Philosophy, Lund University
- The course has overlapping content with SASH92, "Social AI Through the Looking-Glass"