AI in Politics
Department of Political Science – University of Florida
Time: T - Periods 5-6 (11:45 AM - 1:40 PM – Room: MAT 0051
R - Period 6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM) – Room: MAT 0116
Credit Hours: 3
This course fulfills a UF writing requirement (WR) at the level of 4000 words

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Office Hours:
T: 8:30 – 10:00 am.
R: 2:30 – 4:00 pm
Or: by appointment thru email

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the political dimensions of artificial intelligence (AI). Study of core concepts, theories, and methods related to AI's impact on political institutions, public discourse, and decision-making. Focus on the politics of ethical, epistemological, and knowledge production challenges. Designed to equip students with analytical tools for understanding AI in domestic and global politics.

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

1. **Analyze** the impact of artificial intelligence on the production and dissemination of political knowledge.
2. **Evaluate** the ethical implications of AI in political decision-making and governance.
3. **Assess** how AI shapes political discourse, influences public opinion, and reinforces or challenges power structures.
4. **Explain** the epistemological challenges posed by AI-generated knowledge in the study of politics.
5. **Apply** critical thinking of appropriate research methods to examine AI-related political phenomena.
6. **Compare** competing theoretical frameworks for understanding AI's role in contemporary political systems.
7. **Construct** evidence-based arguments regarding the political implications of emerging AI technologies.

To achieve these goals, the course endeavors to provide instruction on key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the study of AI in politics. Students will learn to identify, describe, and explain institutions, structures, and processes that shape the role of AI in politics.

The course is structured into lectures, discussions, and small group work. The course takes a thematic approach to the various issues that define and shape the role of AI in politics. At the same time the thematic approach is seasoned with a reasonable amount of conceptual/theoretical discussion to anchor our understanding of AI in politics both on solid empirical and theoretical grounds.

At the end of the semester the students will have acquired enough knowledge (both empirical and theoretical) to be able to form their own critical and knowledgeable views on many important issues stemming from the role of AI in politics. This means that students will be able to identify, describe, and explain the historical, cultural, economic, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize AI in contemporary world politics.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. **Content**: Demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used in the study of AI in politics.
2. **Critical thinking**: Carefully and logically analyze information from multiple perspectives and develop reasoned solutions to problems within the role of AI in politics.
3. **Communication**: Clearly and effectively communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in written and oral forms appropriate to knowledge of the role of AI in politics.

PREREQUISITE:

CP2001 or POS2041 or INR2001, or instructor's permission.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEE:

N/A

COURSE READINGS

All required readings are available on the canvas site for the course in the file folder (organized by weeks). There is a supplementary folder for other readings on canvas – it is highly recommended (but not required) that students read a few (hopefully all) of these readings in addition to the required ones to increase their knowledge of the issues and themes being discussed during the specific week. All required readings are listed by week in the outline of the course down below.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. **One in-class mid-term exam: 20% of overall course grade**: The exam will be administered in class during the Tuesday lecture time. More explanations will be provided on this assignment as we get closer to the exam date. Students will be required to write an essay about topics from the lectures and the required readings. Students are required to bring in with them to the exam an 8-page (or more pages) exam-book (can be purchased at the bookstores or online) to use for the exam. No other format will be accepted.
2. **Participation in one group research assignment** and its presentation to the class. Split in two phases: mid-semester presentation 5% + final presentation 10% = **15% of overall course grade.** More explanations will be provided at the beginning of the semester. The instructor will meet each group during office hours multiple (three or more) times to discuss the group progress and provide feedback,

1. **One research paper divided in three phases**; each submitted at a specific date during the semester (see down below for details). The instructor will meet with students individually during office hours (or appointment) to discuss the project at least three times during the semester. The paper grade is split in three parts: **5% + 15% + 30% = 50 % of overall course grade.**

2. **Individual research paper presentation** at the end of the semester: **5% of overall grade**.
3. **Class attendance**: Students are required to be present and prepared for every class session: **10%** of overall grade – attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Coming to class late (15 minutes or more) is counted as absence.

Your final cumulative score will be translated into a letter grade according to the following schedule:
93 points or higher = A; 90–92.9 = A-; 87–89.9 = B+; 83–86.9 = B; 80–82.9 = B-; 77–79.9 = C+; 73–76.9 = C; 70–72.9 = C-; 67–69.9 = D+; 63–66.9 = D; 60–62.9 = D-; <60 = E.
Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points is available at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

Because long-term learning and personal development depend primarily on one's active engagement in each class, our meetings will often take the form of group discussions of the themes listed in this syllabus and corresponding required readings, as well as broader issues relating to them. Not only is it therefore essential that you complete readings promptly and thoughtfully, it is also important that you come to class prepared to share coherent and articulate ideas, questions, or opinions.

Writing Requirement (WR): 4,000 Word (~20-Page) Research Paper

- Students must both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning.
- To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course.
- The instructor will evaluate and provide feedback, on all student's written assignments with respect to grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization.
- Students are advised to consult the university's Writing Studio: www.writing.ufl.edu
- This course meets the writing requirement to evaluate 4,000 (or, more) written words in the form of a 20-page research paper assignment during the semester.
- Students are expected to follow a recognized writing and citation style in all written work. For this course, the recommended guide is *The Chicago Manual of Style* (17th ed.) or the APSA Style Manual, which is based on Chicago's author-date system. These manuals provide essential guidance on citations, paper structure, and scholarly tone, helping students develop professional writing skills and maintain academic integrity.

Writing Assessment Rubric:

Category	**4 – Excellent**	**3 – Satisfactory**	**2 – Developing**	**1 – Unsatisfactory**
Content *(max: 20 pts)*	Addresses the topic insightfully; shows original thinking and strong synthesis of sources.	Responds adequately to the topic; demonstrates basic understanding and appropriate use of sources.	Limited or uneven response to topic; weak synthesis or minimal source use.	Off-topic or unclear focus; lacks development and/or appropriate sources.
Organization & Coherence *(max: 20 pts)*	Well-structured; logical flow between paragraphs; strong thesis and transitions.	Some structure present; identifiable thesis; transitions may be basic or inconsistent.	Disorganized or hard to follow; weak or unclear thesis; transitions are poorly developed.	Lacks clear structure or coherence; no thesis; difficult to follow ideas.
Argument & Support *(max: 20 pts)*	Argument is clear, persuasive, and well-supported with specific, relevant evidence.	Argument is mostly clear and supported; some generalizations present.	Argument is weak or inconsistent; limited or vague evidence.	Argument is unclear or absent; lacks evidence or critical thinking.
Style *(max: 20 pts)*	Sophisticated and precise language; writing matches academic tone and discipline standards.	Appropriate tone and vocabulary; minor lapses in clarity or word choice.	Inconsistent tone; vocabulary may be too informal, vague, or misused.	Inappropriate or ineffective word choice; tone is not aligned with academic writing.
Mechanics *(max: 20 pts)*	Virtually no grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors; writing is polished and professional.	Occasional minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.	Frequent errors that may distract the reader or affect clarity.	Persistent errors in grammar and mechanics that interfere with understanding.

SPECIFICS ON THE INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PAPER

This research paper is part of a semester-long academic **individual** investigation into the growing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) in political systems, situated within the broader context of our course materials. Its primary purpose is to equip students with the analytical tools to critically examine the ways AI is transforming political processes—from policymaking and campaign strategy to cyber-security and democratic governance. By exploring these intersections, the assignment encourages students to grapple with pressing questions about ethics, accountability, representation, and the future of political power in a digital age.

To ensure a rigorous and thoughtful research process, the paper is divided into three structured phases, each designed to build upon the last. In **Phase I**, students must identify a compelling research question and submit a three-page summary outlining their proposed topic and expected outcomes. **Phase II** involves a comprehensive six-page literature review, where students will thematically analyze existing empirical and theoretical scholarship related to their question. Finally, in **Phase III**, students will deliver a polished, approximately 20-page research paper that includes a case study, ethical analysis, and forward-looking policy recommendations.

Throughout the semester, students are required to meet with the instructor during office hours at least three times for feedback and guidance. All deliverables must be submitted through the course's Canvas site by the specified deadlines. At the end of the term, each **individual** student will present the findings to the class, offering an opportunity to share insights, debate conclusions, and engage in peer learning. The presentation will serve not only as a synthesis of the research but also as a platform to reflect on the broader implications of AI's role in shaping the political future.

Deadlines:

1. Phase I (Feb 18): Submit research question + 3-page proposal
2. Phase II (Mar 25): Submit 6-page literature review
3. Phase III (Last class): Submit final 20-page paper with bibliography

All papers are to be uploaded to canvas site for the course at their specific dates.

DETAILS OF THE RESEARCH PAPER:
GOAL: ANALYZING THE ROLE OF AI IN POLITICS

A. What is expected to be delivered at the end of the semester?

A well-structured research paper presenting findings from relevant literature, a case study of ethical, political, social implications, and democratic governance analysis, etc. The paper should include a clear introduction, methodology, discussion, and conclusion section.

B. Objectives:

The objective of this research assignment is to critically examine the role and impact of artificial intelligence (AI) in the realm of politics. Students are expected to research how AI technologies are being utilized in various aspects of political processes, such as policymaking, electoral campaigns, public opinion analysis, governance, and inter-state relations such as cyber-security, trade, immigration, etc. Students are expected to assess important ethical, social, cultural, economic, and political implications of AI in shaping the future of contemporaries democratic and non-democratic societies.

C. The paper should consist of the following parts:

1. A thematically driven and organized reading of relevant literature:

Students must conduct an adequate thematically organized reading and critique of relevant literature on the applications of AI in politics by identifying important recent studies, seminal papers, and case

studies. Students are to analyze and categorize this literature into themes (such as policymaking, electoral campaigns, public opinion analysis, cyber-security, and other relevant ones).

2. An analysis one case study:
Students must select one real-world case study where AI has been used in a political context. The case study could include, but is not limited to, areas such as campaign strategies, policy prediction, social media influence, cyber-security, economic and financial trade, war, etc. Students are expected to analyze the impact of AI in the case, highlighting successes, challenges, and ethical considerations as well as technological challenges and limitations.

3. A consideration of ethical and social Implications of AI:
Students should explore the ethical considerations of employing AI in politics, including issues related to transparency, accountability, bias, privacy, etc. Students are expected to discuss the potential societal consequences of relying on AI technologies in political decision-making, and in political processes more generally.

4. A consideration of the role of AI in democratic/or otherwise governance:
Students are expected to investigate how AI is influencing democratic/or otherwise governance here and/or abroad, including its effects on citizen participation, representation, and leadership accountability, and thereby analyze the potential for AI to enhance or hinder democratic principles and practices.

5. A consideration of future trends and policy recommendations:
Students must identify important emerging trends in AI technologies that are likely to impact politics in the near future. Building on this analysis, students must provide policy recommendations for governments and/or other political entities to ensure responsible and effective use of AI in political contexts.

GUIDELINES FOR GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT AND PRESENTATION

As a key component of the course, the group research project offers students the opportunity to collaboratively explore a focused topic related to the role of artificial intelligence in politics. Working in teams, students will conduct in-depth research using academic and factual sources, develop a coherent and well-supported argument, and present their findings in a professional, conference-style presentation. Emphasis is placed on effective teamwork, critical analysis, and clear communication, with each group member contributing meaningfully to both the research process and final presentation. This project not only encourages peer learning but also helps build practical skills in collaborative research and public speaking. The group research work is to be conducted throughout the whole semester.

Choosing a Research Topic

A well-chosen topic is the foundation of strong research. Follow these steps (topic is just illustrative):

1. **Brainstorming**: Consider AI applications (for example) in government, elections, public policy, political campaigns, ethics, misinformation, international relations, international security, ...
2. **Feasibility**: Ensure the topic has sufficient academic and factual sources, and can be finished during the remaining time of the spring semester.
3. **Narrowing Down**: Avoid broad topics. Instead of "AI in Politics," choose for example something like "AI in Political Campaign Strategies," etc.
4. **Approval**: Seek approval from instructor on the research question and significance, if you have not done so already.

Conducting Research

Your research must be comprehensive, drawing from multiple reliable sources:

Academic Sources

- Peer-reviewed journals (e.g., Political Science journals and others)

- Books on AI in politics
- Conference papers (APSA, ISA, etc.)

Factual and Media Resources
- Government reports (OECD, UN, White House AI initiatives, etc.)
- Think tank reports (Brookings, RAND, OpenAI policy documents, etc.)
- High-quality journalism (NYTimes, BBC, Washington Post, The Guardian, MIT Tech Review, etc.) These sources can be used as primary sources of information and not theories or explanatory frameworks.

Data and Case Studies
- Public datasets (AI ethics databases, election data repositories, etc.)
- Case studies (AI in 2020 U.S. elections, China's AI surveillance, EU AI regulation, etc.)

Creating a High-Quality PowerPoint Presentation
A professional conference-style PowerPoint must be well-structured and visually appealing.
Structure of the Presentation
- **Title Slide**: Research title, team members, course details
- **Introduction**: Research question, significance, objectives
- **Background**: Summary of the politics of AI in your issue of interest and its historical context
- **Main Arguments**: Key findings, supported by data and examples
- **Case Study**: A real-world application of AI in politics
- **Challenges and Ethical Considerations**: AI bias, misinformation, governance, etc.
- **Future Implications**: How AI might shape politics in the next decade in the specific issue that you are researching
- **Conclusion and Q&A**: Summary, key takeaways, invitation for questions

Design Best Practices
- Use professional templates (dark background, clear fonts, high contrast)
- Keep slides concise (no more than 5 bullet points per slide)
- Use visuals (charts, graphs, authenticated video-clips, audio-recordings, etc.)
- Avoid excessive animations
- Cite sources on each relevant slide using small font at the bottom of the slide

Best Practices for Presentation
1. **Time Management**: Stick to the allocated time (15-20 minutes).
2. **Engagement**: Speak clearly, avoid reading slides, interact with the audience.
3. **Role Distribution**: Each group member should present a different section.
4. **Handling Q&A**: Be prepared to answer questions with concise responses.
5. **Practice**: Rehearse multiple times before the final presentation.

COURSE CHANGES AND WHAT TO EXPECT

While the instructor may make small adjustments to the course to better support student learning—such as rescheduling deadlines due to unforeseen events, reorganizing reading materials, or modifying instructional pacing —these changes are only made when they are intended to benefit students. However, fundamental aspects of the course—such as the grading scheme, attendance policy, and stated learning objectives—are considered fixed and shall not be modified during the term under any circumstances. The instructor will ensure that any permissible adjustments are clearly communicated to students in a timely and transparent manner.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Midterm Exam	**March 3rd**
Paper – phase I	**February 19th**
Paper – phase II	**March 26th**
Paper – phase III	**April 21st**
Mid-Term Student Presentations of Preliminary Group Research Project	**Week 6**
Final Formal Student Presentations of Group Research Projects	**Week 14**
Formal Student Presentations of Individual Research Papers	**Week 15**

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those polices and for resources for students, please see this link.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

Week 1: Introduction to AI in Politics and the Study of Politics

This module introduces students to the intersection of artificial intelligence and politics, exploring how AI is defined, used, and governed across political systems. It examines not only the instrumental use of AI as a policy tool but also the ideational and power dimensions, such as narratives, imaginaries, and inequalities embedded in AI policy. The content also surveys the rise of large language models (LLMs), their application in political science research and practice, and the ethical challenges they pose, including bias, authorship, misinformation, and epistemic trust. Students are encouraged to think critically about AI's role in knowledge production, domestic and global politics, and the evolving relationship between humans, language, and technology.

Key Points:

1. Instrumental vs. Ideational Understandings of AI - Is AI just a tool, or does it shape political meaning and imagination?
2. Power and Inequality in AI Politics - How AI policy reflects and reinforces global and social power structures (race, gender, identity, etc.).
3. The Role of LLMs in Political Science - Applications in text analysis, simulations, public opinion research, and policy studies.
4. Ethical and Epistemic Challenges - Bias, misinformation, authorship, and the limits of trusting AI as a source of political knowledge.
5. Human–Technology–Language Interdependence - A critical reflection on how meaning, authorship, and political knowledge are co-produced by humans and AI systems.

Readings:

1. Congressional Research Service. *Generative Artificial Intelligence: Overview, Issues, and Questions for Congress*. Washington, DC: CRS, June 9, 2023. https://crsreports.congress.gov.
2. Schippers, Birgit. "Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Politics." *Political Insight* 11, no. 1 (2020): 32–35. https://doi.org/10.1177/2041905820911746.
3. Ulnicane, Inga, et al. "Politics and Policy of Artificial Intelligence." *Review of Policy Research* 40, no. 4 (2023): 612–625. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12574.
4. Visvizi, Anna. "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Exploring the Impact of AI on Politics and Society." *Sustainability* 14, no. 3 (2022): 1730. https://doi.org/10.3390/su14031730.

Week 2: AI - Data and Analysis in Political Science

This module explores how artificial intelligence and big data are transforming research methods in political science. Students learn how vast datasets—from surveys to social media—are being used to analyze elections, voter behavior, policy outcomes, international relations, and conflict prediction. The module also introduces machine learning and text analysis as tools for identifying patterns, clusters, and trends in political data. Real-world examples from countries like the U.S., China, Brazil, and Canada show how governments and researchers globally apply AI for purposes ranging from election security to climate policy. The theme concludes by emphasizing a task-focused approach to machine learning, reminding students that while AI tools are powerful, their value depends on how well they are integrated into thoughtful, context-specific research design.

Key Points:

1. Big Data in Political Science – Use of large, complex datasets (e.g., social media, surveys) to uncover political trends and behaviors.
2. AI Applications in Research – Election forecasting, voter targeting, legislative tracking, conflict prediction, and policy impact simulations.
3. Global Use Cases of AI in Governance – Diverse national strategies (e.g., cybersecurity in Israel, climate monitoring in Australia, diplomacy in Brazil).
4. Text Analysis and Machine Learning – Employing unsupervised and supervised learning methods to extract meaning from political texts.
5. Task-Focused Use of AI Methods – Emphasizing appropriate, goal-oriented application of AI tools rather than treating them as silver-bullet solutions.

Readings:

1. Monteiro-Krebs, Luciana, Bieke Zaman, David Geerts, and Sônia Elisa Caregnato. 2023. "Every Word You Say: Algorithmic Mediation and Implications of Data-Driven Scholarly Communication." *AI & Society* 38 (2): 1003–12. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-022-01468-1.
2. Wu, Nicole K., and Patrick Y. Wu. "Surveying the Impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence on Political Science Education." *PS: Political Science & Politics* (2024): 1–8. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096524000167.
3. Erkkilä, T. (2023). Global indicators and AI policy: Metrics, policy scripts, and narratives. *Review of Policy Research*, 40, 811–839. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12556
4. El-Taliawi, O. G., Goyal, N., & Howlett, M. (2021). Holding out the promise of Lasswell's dream: Big data analytics in public policy research and teaching. *Review of Policy Research*, 38, 640–660. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12448
5. Reis , João, Paula Santo, & Nuno Melão. Impact of Artificial Intelligence Research on Politics of the European Union Member States: The Case Study of Portugal. *Sustainability* 2020, 12(17), 6708; https://doi.org/10.3390/su12176708

Week 3: AI - Democracy and Political Participation

This module explores the complex relationship between artificial intelligence and democratic politics. It examines the limits of AI in capturing the ambiguity, contingency, and human judgment inherent in political decision-making. While AI offers potential benefits such as improved public service delivery and enhanced citizen engagement, it also raises significant challenges—including risks to epistemic agency, misinformation, and transparency. Through empirical studies, case examples (like USA and Brazil), and normative debates, the theme addresses public attitudes toward AI, democratic legitimacy, and the need for ethical governance frameworks. Students are encouraged to critically assess how AI can both support and undermine democratic processes and participation.

Key Points:

1. Epistemic and Technological Limits of AI in Politics – AI cannot replicate human judgment or navigate political ambiguity and ethical nuance.
2. Democratic Participation and Public Engagement – AI tools can enable or constrain meaningful participation depending on how they are designed and deployed.
3. Public Trust and Governance Frameworks – Trust in AI's role in governance is crucial; concerns around fairness, transparency, and data privacy must be addressed.
4. Risks to Epistemic Agency and Misinformation – Deepfakes, fake news, and algorithmic manipulation can erode citizens' ability to think and act politically.

5. Global and Cultural Perspectives – Public perceptions of AI vary across democratic systems and cultural contexts, shaping how AI is accepted and implemented.

Readings:

1. de Boer, Bas, and Olya Kudina. "Large Language Models, Politics, and the Functionalization of Language." *AI and Ethics*(2024). https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-024-00564-w.
2. Innerarity, Daniel. "The Epistemic Impossibility of an Artificial Intelligence Take-over of Democracy." *AI & Society*(2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-023-01632-1.
3. König, Pascal D., and Georg Wenzelburger. "Opportunity for Renewal or Disruptive Force? How Artificial Intelligence Alters Democratic Politics." *Government Information Quarterly* 37, no. 1 (2020): 101489. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2020.101489.
4. Pascal D. König, "Citizen Conceptions of Democracy and Support for Artificial Intelligence in Government and Politics," *European Journal of Political Research* 62 (2023): 1280–1300, https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12570.
5. Paulo Savaget, Tulio Chiarini, Steve Evans. "Empowering political participation through artificial intelligence", *Science and Public Policy*, Volume 46, Issue 3, June 2019, Pages 369–380, https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scy064.
6. Tzeng, Philip. "Artificial Intelligence Technology, Public Trust, and Effective Governance." *AI and Ethics* (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-023-00295-7.
7. Coeckelbergh, Mark. 2023. "Democracy, Epistemic Agency, and AI: Political Epistemology in Times of Artificial Intelligence." *AI and Ethics* 3 (4): 1341–50. https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-022-00239-4.

Week 4: **AI – Deployment in Policy Formation, Recommendation, Implementation**

This module examines how artificial intelligence is increasingly deployed in legal and policy-making contexts, highlighting both its transformative potential and its epistemological and ethical limitations. It covers current real-world applications of AI in legal research, document review, contract analysis, and risk management, while raising concerns about "legal hallucinations" and the limits of AI in normative decision-making. Through case studies like Indonesian civil procedure reform and the European Commission's AI policy, the module explores how narratives, global rankings, and dependencies shape national and international AI strategies. It also critiques automation in legal enforcement and reaffirms the need for human responsibility, ethical oversight, and contextual judgment in deploying AI within governance systems.

Key Points:

1. Legal Hallucinations and AI Limitations – AI can generate misleading or inaccurate legal outputs due to its lack of moral reasoning and context sensitivity.
2. Real-World Applications in Law and Governance – From contract analysis to legal research, AI tools are already transforming operational tasks in legal and bureaucratic domains.
3. Narratives and Sensemaking in AI Policy – Dominant framings (e.g., AI as economic growth driver vs. AI as governance challenge) influence how policies are shaped and justified.
4. Global Indicators and Policy Alignment – International AI rankings can create market-driven policy incentives that may neglect ethics, equity, or public interest concerns.
5. Responsibility and the Limits of Automation – Humans must retain authority and accountability over AI agents, especially in morally complex or enforcement-related domains.

Readings:

1. Müller, Luise. "Domesticating Artificial Intelligence" *Moral Philosophy and Politics*, vol. 9, no. 2, 2022, pp. 219-237. https://doi.org/10.1515/mopp-2020-0054

2. Erkkilä, Tero. "Global Indicators and AI Policy: Metrics, Policy Scripts, and Narratives." *Review of Policy Research* 40, no. 5 (2023): 811–839. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12556 .
3. Jayadi, Hendri. "The Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Development of Indonesian Civil Procedure Law as a Legal Futuristic Study." *International Journal of Law and Politics Studies* 5, no. 5 (2022): 165–172. https://doi.org/10.32996/ijlps.2023.5.5.1 .
4. af Malmborg, F. (2023). Narrative dynamics in European Commission AI policy—Sensemaking, agency construction, and anchoring. *Review of Policy Research*, 40, 757–780. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12529
5. Rönnblom, M., Carlsson, V., & Öjehag-Pettersson, A. (2023). Gender equality in Swedish AI policies. What's the problem represented to be? *Review of Policy Research*, 40, 688–704. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12547

Week 5: AI – Algorithmic Bias and Fairness

This module addresses the political and social implications of algorithmic bias in AI systems, focusing on how such bias often reflects and reinforces existing inequalities in society. Drawing on examples like facial recognition errors, hiring algorithms, and predictive policing, the module emphasizes how biased training data and opaque design processes can have real-world impacts on marginalized communities. It also explores the difficulties of implementing fairness in AI—from technical challenges and data limitations to resistance from industry stakeholders and the absence of robust legal frameworks. Through applied case areas such as food delivery, healthcare, work, and housing, students are encouraged to consider the broader power structures that shape both AI outcomes and AI policy.

Key Concepts, Themes, and Ideas:

1. Algorithmic Bias as a Reflection of Structural Inequality – Bias in AI often originates from skewed or incomplete training data rooted in societal discrimination.
2. Impacts Across Policy and Society – AI bias affects real lives through systems used in hiring, housing, healthcare, and law enforcement.
3. Challenges to Fair AI Implementation – Includes technical limitations, lack of diverse datasets, weak legal frameworks, and industry pushback.
4. Politics of Framing Fairness – Definitions of fairness are contested, politically charged, and vary across cultural and institutional contexts.
5. Applied Case Studies – Real-world examples (e.g., algorithmic food delivery labor practices or housing discrimination) illustrate how AI systems interact with lived realities.

Readings:

1. Zou, L., Khern-am-nuai, W. AI and housing discrimination: the case of mortgage applications. *AI Ethics* **3**, 1271–1281 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-022-00234-9
2. McCormack, Jon. "Art and the Science of Generative AI." In *AI for Social Science: Contexts, Critiques, and Consequences*, edited by Andreas Sudmann, 89–106. Bielefeld: transcript Verlag, 2023 https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adh4451
3. De Acypreste, Rafael, and Edemilson Paraná. "Artificial Intelligence and Employment: A Systematic Review." *Brazilian Journal of Political Economy* 42, no. 4 (2022): 1014–1032. https://doi.org/10.1590/0101-31572022-3320.
4. Zikmundová, Klára. "Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Threats to the Fundamental Values of Our Society." *European Studies – The Review of European Law, Economics and Politics* 9, no. 2 (2022): 181–196. https://doi.org/10.2478/eustu-2022-0019 .

5. Chou, Meng-Hsuan, and Catherine Gomes. "Politics of On-Demand Food Delivery: Policy Design and the Power of Algorithms." *Review of Policy Research* 40, no. 5 (2023): 646–664. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12543 .
6. Ulnicane, Inga, and Aini Aden. "Power and Politics in Framing Bias in Artificial Intelligence Policy." *Review of Policy Research* 40, no. 5 (2023): 665–687. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12567.
7. Deranty, JP., Corbin, T. Artificial intelligence and work: a critical review of recent research from the social sciences. *AI & Soc* **39**, 675–691 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-022-01496-x
8. Rönnblom, Malin, Vanja Carlsson, and Andreas Öjehag-Pettersson. "Gender Equality in Swedish AI Policies: What's the Problem Represented to Be?" *Review of Policy Research* 40, no. 5 (2023): 688–704. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12547.

Week 6: Mid-Term Student Presentations of Preliminary Group Research Project

Week 7: AI - Cybersecurity and Politics

This module explores the critical intersection of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and political systems, with a focus on how states and institutions manage emerging risks in the digital age. It examines the evolving role of agencies like the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), which has begun integrating AI into national security strategies. The module analyzes high-profile cyber incidents—such as the 2007 Estonia cyber-attack—and unpacks how such events have shaped international policy and preparedness. Special attention is given to threats AI poses to electoral integrity and human security, including disinformation, automated cyberattacks, and infrastructure vulnerabilities. Students are challenged to consider how states pursue strategic autonomy and resilience in response to increasingly AI-enhanced cyber threats.

Key Points:

1. AI-Driven Cyber Threats and Vulnerabilities – AI tools can accelerate and automate cyberattacks, deepening risks to elections, infrastructure, and governance.
2. Strategic Autonomy and National Cybersecurity Policies – States are developing AI-integrated cybersecurity strategies (e.g., U.S. CISA's 2023–2025 plan) to secure autonomy and sovereignty.
3. Case Study: 2007 Estonia Cyber-Attack – A foundational event in global cyber policy, highlighting how political conflicts manifest in digital infrastructure attacks.
4. AI, Disinformation, and Election Security – Elections are especially vulnerable to AI-amplified threats like fake news, voter manipulation, and digital interference.
5. Human Security in the Age of AI – Cybersecurity now includes protecting individuals from AI-driven violations of privacy, rights, and access to trustworthy information.

Readings:

1. Timmers, Paul. "Ethics of AI and Cybersecurity When Sovereignty Is at Stake." *Minds and Machines* 29, no. 4 (2019): 635–645. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11023-019-09508-4.
2. Congressional Research Service. U.S. Campaign and Election Cybersecurity: Preventing Election Hacking. Congressional Digest, October 2019. https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/if/if11265 .
3. Giantini, Guilherme. "The Sophistry of the Neutral Tool: Weaponizing Artificial Intelligence and Big Data into Threats Toward Social Exclusion." *AI and Ethics* 3 (2023): 1049–1061. https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-023-00311-7.
4. Kaur, Ramanpreet, Dušan Gabrijelčič, and Tomaž Klobučar. 2023**.** "Artificial Intelligence for Cybersecurity: Literature Review and Future Research Directions." *Information Fusion* 97: 101804. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.inffus.2023.101804.

Week 8: Mid-Term Student Presentations of Preliminary Individual Research Project

Week 9: AI – Politics, Ethics, Privacy, and Transparency

This module focuses on the ethical, political, and social implications of AI, with special attention to privacy, transparency, and surveillance. It introduces the concept of politico-ethics, examining how AI technologies intersect with political objectives and democratic values. Through examples such as facial recognition, AI surveillance, and surveillance capitalism, the module reveals how AI can both empower and repress, depending on its deployment. It also explores global norms, such as "Fair Work for AI," and how ethical AI standards are negotiated across borders. The dangers of disinformation—especially in U.S. foreign policy—and the blowback effect underscore the importance of regulating AI in a way that safeguards both national security and democratic integrity.

Key Points:

1. Politico-Ethics of AI – Understanding AI not just as a technical tool but as a political force that raises normative questions about fairness, agency, and governance.
2. AI, Surveillance, and Repression – Case studies show how facial recognition and predictive technologies are used to control populations and suppress dissent.
3. Disinformation and Blowback – U.S. foreign policy's use of disinformation risks harming its own democratic foundations through unintended domestic consequences.
4. Global Ethics and Regulation – Initiatives like the Global Partnership on AI call for fair labor standards, transparency, and responsible AI deployment.
5. Ontology and AI Ethics in Political Contexts – How AI systems structure knowledge (ontology) influences how political decisions are made and justified.

Readings:

1. Rovetto, Robert J. "The Ethics of Conceptual, Ontological, Semantic and Knowledge Modeling." *AI & Society* (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-022-01563-3 .
2. Vousinas, Georgios L., Ilektra Simitsi, Georgia Livieri, Georgia-Chara Gkouva, and Iris-Panagiota Efthymiou. "Mapping the Road of the Ethical Dilemmas Behind Artificial Intelligence." *Journal of Politics and Ethics in New Technologies and AI* 1, no. 1 (2022): e31238. https://doi.org/10.12681/jpentai.31238 .
3. Landon-Murray, M., Mujkic, E., & Nussbaum, B. (2019). Disinformation in Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy: Impacts and Ethics in an Era of Fake News, Social Media, and Artificial Intelligence. *Public Integrity*, *21*(5), 512–522. https://doi.org/10.1080/10999922.2019.1613832
4. Saheb, T. "Ethically contentious aspects of artificial intelligence surveillance: a social science perspective". *AI Ethics* **3**, 369–379 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-022-00196-y
5. König, Pascal D., and Georg Wenzelburger. "Opportunity for Renewal or Disruptive Force? How Artificial Intelligence Alters Democratic Politics." *Government Information Quarterly* 37, no. 3 (2020): 101489. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2020.101489
6. Schopmans, Hendrik, and Jelena Cupać**.** "Engines of Patriarchy: Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Times of Illiberal Backlash Politics." *Ethics & International Affairs* 35, no. 3 (2021): 329–42. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0892679421000356.
7. Hollanek, T. The ethico-politics of design toolkits: responsible AI tools, from big tech guidelines to feminist ideation cards. *AI Ethics* **5**, 2165–2174 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-024-00545-z

Week 10: AI - World Politics

This module explores how artificial intelligence is shaping the landscape of world politics, from global governance structures to regional power dynamics. It examines the complex interplay between AI, democracy, human rights, and economic development across different geopolitical contexts. Key issues include the militarization of AI, its role in reinforcing or challenging global inequalities, and the influence of private sector actors in transnational AI policy. Case studies from China, Africa, the European Union, Central Asia, and the United States illustrate diverse approaches to AI deployment and governance, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation, ethical regulation, and inclusive development in shaping a just global AI order.

Key Points:

1. Global AI Governance – Urgent need for transnational frameworks that uphold democracy, ethics, and human rights in AI development.
2. AI and Geopolitical Rivalries – Strategic competition between global powers (e.g., U.S.–China) is influencing AI investment, policy, and military use.
3. Regional and Developmental Inequalities – Unequal access to AI infrastructure and capabilities risks deepening North–South divides.
4. The Role of the Private Sector – Tech companies play a major role in shaping global AI norms, often outside traditional state-based governance channels.
5. International Cooperation and Case Studies – Examples from US, China, Africa, the EU, and Central Asia highlight contrasting models of AI governance, cooperation, and contestation.

Readings:

1. Hassan, Yousif. "Governing Algorithms from the South: A Case Study of AI Development in Africa." *AI & Society*(2022). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-022-01527-7 .
2. Kalkan Küçüksolak, Övgü, and Tuba Fırat. "The Geopolitics of Artificial Intelligence in Central Asia: Russian and Chinese Cases." *Güvenlik Bilimleri Dergisi* 12, no. 1 (2023): 25 - 44. https://doi.org/10.28956/gbd.1249381
3. Erman, Eva, and Markus Furendal. "The Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence: Some Normative Concerns." *Moral Philosophy and Politics* 9, no. 2 (2022): 267–291. https://doi.org/10.1515/mopp-2020-0046 .
4. Sticher, Valerie. "War and Peace in the Age of AI." *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*(2024). https://doi.org/10.1177/13691481241293066 .
5. Filgueiras, Fernando**.** "Artificial Intelligence Policy Regimes: Comparing Politics and Policy to National Strategies for Artificial Intelligence." *Global Perspectives* 3, no. 1 (2022): 32362. https://doi.org/10.1525/gp.2022.32362.

Week 11: Global AI Governance: Ethics, Inequality, and Public Sector Transformation

This module offers a multi-layered exploration of artificial intelligence's evolving role in public governance, global inequalities, ethical dilemmas, and technological diffusion. Several studies examine how AI is shaping public administration, emphasizing both its transformative potential and unintended consequences, such as algorithmic bias, exclusion, and ethical opacity. Global adoption patterns of generative AI reveal stark geographic disparities, with middle-income countries showing unexpectedly high usage, despite limited infrastructure. Other contributions highlight the locational politics of AI, particularly in Africa and Latin America, where AI development often reflects postcolonial power asymmetries and dependency on global tech corporations. From China's top-down AI strategies to Europe's cautious policy frameworks, these studies underscore the contextual, cultural, and institutional dimensions of AI governance. Migration, surveillance, and digital labor are also addressed, revealing how AI technologies reorganize control, visibility, and agency

in contemporary society. Collectively, the articles call for more inclusive, transparent, and ethically grounded approaches to AI development and deployment.

Key Points:

1. Algorithmic Governance & Governmentality – AI is reshaping public administration and decision-making, often reinforcing bureaucratic logic while introducing new risks (e.g., bias, opacity, technocratic control).
2. Global Digital Inequality & Locational Politics – Countries in the Global South face barriers to AI development due to limited infrastructure, data sovereignty issues, and dependence on Global North firms.
3. Ethical Challenges & the "Dark Side" of AI – Across regions, AI raises concerns about accountability, discrimination, algorithmic manipulation, and loss of human agency in governance.
4. Generative AI Diffusion and Global Adoption Patterns – Tools like ChatGPT are globally popular, especially among younger, educated males in middle-income countries—yet stark divides persist across socioeconomic lines.
5. Policy & Strategic AI Governance – From Europe's strategic frameworks to China's local implementation gaps, governments are grappling with aligning AI innovation with democratic, legal, and societal norms.
6. AI and Migration – AI technologies are reshaping border control, refugee classification, and migrant surveillance, with profound consequences for mobility and rights.
7. State–Corporate Synergies and Dependencies – Public sector AI often relies on private vendors, raising issues of vendor lock-in, sovereignty, and public value erosion.
8. Datafication & Surveillance – Many AI applications—especially in security, migration, and welfare—contribute to intensified surveillance and reduced privacy, often without sufficient accountability

Readings:

1. Dauvergne, Peter. "The Globalization of Artificial Intelligence: Consequences for the Politics of Environmentalism." *Globalizations* 18, no. 2 (2021): 285–299. https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2020.1785670 .
2. Efthymiou, Iris Panagiota, Antonios Alevizos, and Symeon Sidiropoulos. "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Revolutionizing NGOs' Work." *Journal of Politics and Ethics in New Technologies and AI* 2, no. 1 (2023): e35137. https://doi.org/10.12681/jpentai.35137 .
3. Schiff, D.S. (2023). Looking through a policy window with tinted glasses: Setting the agenda for U.S. AI policy. *Review of Policy Research*, 40, 729–756. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12535
4. Islam, Masabah Bint E., Muhammad Haseeb, Hina Batool, Nasir Ahtasham, and Zia Muhammad. "AI Threats to Politics, Elections, and Democracy: A Blockchain-Based Deepfake Authenticity Verification Framework." *Blockchains* 2, no. 4 (2024): 458–481. https://doi.org/10.3390/blockchains2040020 .

Week 12: AI and the Human Future of War

This module charts a critical and multifaceted picture of AI's integration into modern warfare, revealing both its transformative potential and its deep limitations. Nazil (2025) outlines the rapid militarization of AI—from predictive modeling to autonomous systems—arguing that while AI is revolutionizing defense operations, it also raises urgent ethical and strategic dilemmas, particularly concerning lethal autonomous weapons. Weber (2024) examines how cultural and political imaginaries surrounding autonomous drone swarms distort public understanding of AI's true capabilities, masking the humanitarian and legal dangers they pose. King (2024) shifts focus from lethal autonomy to the more immediate and pervasive use of AI in data-driven targeting and intelligence analysis, showing that military AI primarily functions as an information amplifier rather than a replacement for human combatants. In contrast, Hunter and Bowen (2024) argue that AI's

logical foundations make it fundamentally incapable of replicating human command decision-making, since warfare requires abductive reasoning and moral judgment that machines cannot emulate. Echoing this, Goldfarb and Lindsay (2021) contend that AI actually increases the value of human judgment, as prediction alone cannot replace the interpretive, ethical, and organizational functions central to command and strategy. Collectively, these articles depict a world where AI reshapes, but does not replace, the human essence of warfare—intensifying both strategic power and moral responsibility.

Key Points:

1. AI as a Military Force Multiplier – AI enhances logistics, intelligence, and targeting efficiency but introduces vulnerabilities, ethical challenges, and risks of escalation.
2. Autonomy and Human Control – The tension between efficiency and ethics in deploying lethal autonomous systems underscores the ongoing debate about "meaningful human control" in warfare.
3. Datafication and Digital Targeting – Modern militaries increasingly depend on AI for data synthesis and predictive analysis, shifting war's focus from physical battlefields to algorithmic information spaces.
4. Limits of Machine Command and Decision-Making – AI's reliance on inductive logic prevents it from grasping the abductive reasoning essential for strategy and command under uncertainty.
5. Human Judgment as Irreplaceable – Despite automation, strategic and ethical choices in war hinge on human interpretation, responsibility, and contextual awareness.
6. Sociotechnical Imaginaries and Ethics – Public and political narratives (e.g., "Terminator myths") obscure the real-world moral and humanitarian stakes of AI warfare.
7. AI, Power, and Global Security – AI intensifies great-power competition while demanding new governance frameworks to manage escalation, accountability, and legitimacy.

Readings:

1. Nazil, A. R. (2025). AI at War: The next revolution for military and defense. *World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 27*(1), 1998–2004. https://doi.org/10.30574/wjarr.2025.27.1.2735
2. Weber, J. (2024). *Autonomous drone swarms and the contested imaginaries of artificial intelligence. Digital War, 5*(146–149). https://doi.org/10.1057/s42984-023-00076-7
3. Goldfarb, A., & Lindsay, J. R. (2021). Why artificial intelligence increases the importance of humans in war. *International Security, 46*(3), 7–50. https://doi.org/10.1162/isec_a_00425
4. King, A. (2024). Digital targeting: Artificial intelligence, data, and military intelligence. *Journal of Global Security Studies, 9*(2). https://doi.org/10.1093/jogss/ogae009
5. Hunter, C., & Bowen, B. E. (2024). We'll never have a model of an AI major-general: Artificial intelligence, command decisions, and kitsch visions of war. *Journal of Strategic Studies, 47*(1), 116–146. https://doi.org/10.1080/01402390.2023.2241648

Week 13: General Discussion: Futures of AI Governance

This module wraps up the semester discussion on the state-of-the-art and forward-looking topologies of AI governance research. They systematically review existing frameworks, ethical guidelines, policies, and theoretical approaches, revealing both consensus principles (transparency, accountability, fairness) and critical gaps — especially in mechanism design, empirical validation, inclusivity, and enforcement. Many of them adopt multi-level perspectives (organizational, national, international) to grapple with complexity and changing technologies. The forward-looking orientation is especially visible in attempts to anticipate what governance might need to accommodate as AI evolves: adaptive regulation, hybrid governance involving states, firms, and civil society, global harmonization, and stronger mechanisms for public engagement and oversight. Together, they offer both diagnostics and design pathways for future governance of AI and emerging technologies.

Key Points:

1. Responsible AI Governance Frameworks
2. Principles vs. Implementation Gap
3. Multi-level & Multi-actor Governance
4. Complexity, Uncertainty & Adaptive Governance
5. Frames, Narratives & Policy Discourse
6. Global Legal Authority & Regulatory Horizons

Readings:

1. J Ricaurte, P., Gómez-Cruz, E., & Siles, I. (2024). Algorithmic governmentality in Latin America: Sociotechnical imaginaries, neocolonial soft power, and authoritarianism. *Big Data & Society*, *11*(1). https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517241229697
2. Shaleen Khanal, Hongzhou Zhang & Araz Taeihagh (2025) Development of New Generation of Artificial Intelligence in China: When Beijing's Global Ambitions Meet Local Realities, Journal of Contemporary China, 34:151, 19-42, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2024.2333492
3. Marie Godin, Derya Ozkul & Rachel Humphris (2025) Digital technologies and migration: behind, beyond and around the black box, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 51:14, 3571-3589, https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2025.2513153
4. Valle-Cruz, D., García-Contreras, R., & Gil-Garcia, J. R. (2024). *Exploring the negative impacts of artificial intelligence in government: The dark side of intelligent algorithms and cognitive machines*. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 90(2), 353–368. https://doi.org/10.1177/00208523231187051
5. Obia, V. (2025). *The politics of locationality: Interrogating AI development, locational (dis)advantage and governance in Africa*. *Media, Culture & Society*, 47(5), 1042–1056. https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437251328209
6. Alhosani, K., & Alhashmi, S. M. (2024). *Opportunities, challenges, and benefits of AI innovation in government services: A review*. *Discover Artificial Intelligence*, 4(18). https://doi.org/10.1007/s44163-024-00111-w
7. van Noordt, C., Medaglia, R., & Tangi, L. (2025). *Policy initiatives for Artificial Intelligence-enabled government: An analysis of national strategies in Europe*. *Public Policy and Administration*, 40(2), 215–253. https://doi.org/10.1177/09520767231198411
8. Liu, Y., & Wang, H. (2024). *Who on Earth Is Using Generative AI?* World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 10870. https://www.worldbank.org/prwp

Week 14: Student Presentations of Group Research Projects
Formal class presentations of final group research projects.

Week 15: Student Presentations of Individual Research Papers
Formal class presentations of final research projects.