

Ethics for Human-centered AI (A005874)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Daems, Joke	LW22	lecturer-in-charge
Doğruöz, A. Seza	LW22	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Postgraduate Certificate Computer-Assisted Language Mediation	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Ethics, AI, bias and stereotyping, privacy, transparency, accountability, environmental impact, social impact, fairness, human-computer interaction

Position of the course

This course raises awareness of the risks involved in building and implementing AI-systems and explores what 'human-centered' AI would look like. Each session addresses concerns (e.g. bias, stereotyping, data privacy, and copyright, along with existing or needed mitigation strategies) raised by AI researchers. Grounded in recent developments and academic research, the course emphasizes fairness, accountability, and transparency in AI development. It also explores the key challenges in human-centered design of AI research and products. Given the study programme this course belongs to, the main focus will be on the relationship between these issues and language technologies.

Contents

- Understanding how AI is framed and what the potential implications are.
- Insight into the environmental and financial costs involved in developing and maintaining AI systems, exploring current initiatives at reducing these costs.
- Understanding bias in AI-systems, how it leads to potential issues and possibilities to mitigate these biases.
- Privacy: Ensuring the protection of user data and maintaining confidentiality.
- Transparency and Accountability: Promoting transparency in language technology systems and holding AI developers and researchers accountable for their creations.
- Social Impact: Analyzing the societal effects of language technologies (e.g., misinformation, accessibility, fairness).

Initial competences

The general competences that may be expected from an academic bachelor student.

Final competences

- 1 Explain how public perception is influenced by framing in AI discourse
- 2 Identify potential harms, risks, and mitigation strategies related to AI development
- 3 Describe the main sources of bias and stereotyping in AI
- 4 Critically analyse the impact of AI implementation on individuals and society

5 Reflect on responsible and ethical practices in the development and deployment of language technologies

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Classes consist of a mix of lectures for information transfer and seminars during which students actively participate themselves. Students can be required to prepare for different sessions via reading / watching / listening materials (academic articles and newspaper articles, videos of lectures and debates, podcasts, etc., depending on relevant developments in the field). To encourage critical reflection, in-class participation is required (presentation of processed materials, discussion of theories and concepts in smaller peer groups, etc.). There will be some independent work to prepare for these classes and/or assignments.

Study material

None

References

References will be shared via Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

Materials available on Ufora, discussion forum for any questions.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Throughout the semester, students will complete assignments to show they master the necessary competences. Exact assignments and skills tests will depend on the specific topics covered, but some examples would be a written synthesis of reading/watching materials, a class presentation of ethical issues identified in a specific type of tool or technology, a list of 'for' and 'counter' arguments related to a specific ethical concern.

There is also a written exam, allowing students to show their understanding of key theoretical frameworks and their potential application.

Calculation of the examination mark

Assignments & skills test (assignments during the semester): 40%

Final exam: 60%

Deadlines for skills tests must be respected. In case of a late submission without notifying the lecturer beforehand, the score for that assignment will be reduced to 9/20 (if the student would otherwise have received a passing grade).

During the second examination period, students must retake the written exam. If the student received a passing grade for their skills tests during the semester, they keep that partial score, which will make up 40% of the final grade. If a student did not receive a passing grade for their skills tests, their final exam will make up 100% of the final grade.

Facilities for Working Students

Class attendance is recommended.
Limited possibility of feedback via e-mail, restricted to answering specific questions.