

# AI IN ANTIQUITY AND TODAY

CLA 3811: AI in Antiquity and Today (3 credits)

**INSTRUCTORS:** *Professor Flora Iff-Noël and Professor Jennifer A. Rea*

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**OFFICE HOURS:** TBA      **COURSE WEBSITE:** <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

## **PRIMARY GENERAL EDUCATION DESIGNATION:**

Humanities (H)

Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

## **SECONDARY GENERAL EDUCATION DESIGNATION:**

International (N)

This designation is always in conjunction with another program area. Courses with International should demonstrate that a majority of the course addresses International content and engagement and it should be a substantial, defining feature of the course.

International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Readings will be made available through CANVAS for students enrolled in the course. Please see the “Course Schedule” for the required readings. There are no textbooks to purchase for this course.

**MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEES:** *None*

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** None. Please see the “Course Schedule” for all required readings.

**COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES - HUMANITIES:** *By the end of this course, students will be able to:*

1. Critically evaluate the role the humanities plays in the adoption and acceptance of AI through discussions of texts and viewing of popular media.
2. Identify key elements from the literature of ancient Greece and Rome that offer a speculative look at AI and/or the ethical dilemmas that societies may face when using this technology.
3. Assess the ways in which AI shapes their lived experience in modern society and how it influences their perception of personal identity.
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate a persuasive argument.

Course Description: Examines AI’s origins in ancient Greece and compares it to AI’s acceptance and use in modern society. Pairs discussion of Greek and Roman philosophical and other literary texts on the soul and identity and the boundaries between the natural and artificial with emerging societal issues related to AI, including gender, racism, and slavery.

**Humanities Course SLOs**

	HUMANITIES SLOS → <b>STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...</b>	THIS COURSE'S SLOS → STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...	ASSESSMENT
CONTENT	Identify, describe, and explain the history, underlying theory and methodologies used.	Identify, describe, and explain theories and methodologies utilized in the discipline of Classics, and examine how ancient writers conceived of and evaluated AI in antiquity.	Class participation, discussion posts, quizzes, essays on quizzes midterm and final
CRITICAL THINKING	Identify and analyze key elements, biases and influences that shape thought within the subject area. Approach issues and problems within the discipline from multiple perspectives.	Analyze and critically evaluate the origins of AI in ancient Greco-Roman society, and how that has influenced our modern perception of AI today. Identify multiple perspectives on the benefits of and the bias against AI in antiquity and today.	Class participation, discussion posts, paper assignment

	HUMANITIES SLOS → <b>STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...</b>	THIS COURSE'S SLOS → STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...	ASSESSMENT
COMMUNICATION	Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively.	Develop and effectively communicate original, persuasively argued ideas about the primary texts by ancient Greek and Roman writers and about the secondary readings and media, both through class discussion, and in writing.	Class participation, essays on quizzes, midterm, final paper

**International Objectives (for N co-designation)**

INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES →	THIS COURSE'S OBJECTIVES → <b>(This course will....)</b>	OBJECTIVES WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY:
International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness.	Analyze ancient Greco-Roman literature by writers established in a particular history and culture, which help students identify intercultural experiences in their own time.	Readings of Greek and Roman texts created in a specific historical and cultural environment in Greek and Roman society, but which remain relevant for modern historical and cultural environments globally. Class discussions will identify the texts' multiple perspectives.

INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES →	THIS COURSE'S OBJECTIVES → (This course will....)	OBJECTIVES WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY:
<p>Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world.</p>	<p>Course readings and media examine the cultural, political, historical and social forces around AI's development which reflect and or/ differ from the modern cultural, political, and social forces elsewhere in the world shaping AI, and which influence and challenge the perception of AI worldwide.</p>	<p>Secondary readings on AI and the class discussion that correlate them with the primary readings.</p>
<p>Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.</p>	<p>Analyze how texts and media can be created in a particular context and culture in antiquity, yet remain relevant to a modern, worldwide audience.</p>	<p>Readings of texts that engage with the topics of AI's relation to gender, sexuality, power dynamics, and ethics, and class discussion of the ways in which Greek and Roman definitions of AI might overlap with US definitions of AI, and the ways in which they do not.</p>

**International SLOs (for N co-designation)**

	INTERNATIONAL SLOS → STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...	COURSE SLOS → STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...	ASSESSMENT
CONTENT	Identify, describe, and explain the historical, cultural, economic, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world.	Identify, describe and explain the historical, cultural, and social forces that have affected modern societal development and how these experiences have shaped modern AI's development.	Class participation, discussion posts, essays on quizzes
CRITICAL THINKING	Analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate understandings of an increasingly connected contemporary world.	Analyze and reflect on how social systems and beliefs influence the definitions of and ethical responses to AI globally. Contrast with students' observations about AI and ethics, in their own cultures.	Class participation, discussion posts, essays on quizzes, and paper assignment

**COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:** You can use e-mail, use the Canvas inbox, or visit office hours. For private communications, it is best to use UF e-mail. You can also ask during class if you have questions. Students can expect to hear back within 24 hours, except on weekends, in which case it may be up to 48 hours. All assignments will be graded within one week of the due date.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**CRITICAL DATES:** QUIZZES 1/12, 1/21, 2/2, 2/11, 3/2, 3/18    PAPER TOPIC 1/26

PAPER ABSTRACT AND OUTLINE 2/16    MIDTERM 2/23    PRESENTATIONS 4/4-4/15    FINAL EXAM 4/20

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS/ASSIGNMENTS:**

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	Introduction: What is AI?	<a href="#"><u>"What Is Artificial Intelligence?"</u></a>	
2	Hephaistus's Golden Servants: AI and the Enslaved	Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> (Selections) "Did the Greeks Believe in their Robots?" (Devecka)	Quiz #1
3	Pandora: AI and Gender	Hesiod's <i>Theogony</i> (Pandora) Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> (Pandora)	Quiz #2
4	Phusis and Techne	Aristotle, <i>Physics</i> , II, 192-193	Presentation Topic Due
5	Animate and Inanimate Tools	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , I, 1253 b 25- 1254,	Quiz #3

6	Automata	Philo of Byzantium (Selections)	Quiz #4
7	Automata	Hero of Alexandria (Selections)  <a href="#">Tybjerg, Karin. "Wonder-Making and Philosophical Wonder in Hero of Alexandria." <i>Studies in History and Philosophy of Science</i> 34, no. 3 (2003): 443–466.</a>	Presentation Outline Due
8	AI, The Soul and Identity	Plato: <i>Republic</i> & <i>Phaedrus</i> (selections)  <a href="#">Podcast: "Can Robots Make Art?"</a>	Midterm Exam
9	AI and Racism	<a href="#">Podcast: "Black Panther and the Rise of Black (Tech) Power"</a>  <a href="#">Article: "The Rise of the Racist Robots"</a> Black Panther (select scenes) <a href="#">The Hitchhiker's Guide to AI Ethics, Parts 1-3</a>	Quiz #5
10		**PLEASE ENJOY YOUR SPRING BREAK**	
11	AI and Gender II	Watch: <i>Bladerunner 2049</i> (select scenes)  <a href="#">"Do Androids Dream of Electric Greeks?" by C.W. "Toph" Marshall. Oct. 27, 2018 <i>Eidolon</i></a>	
12	AI and Religion	"Consuming <i>Westworld</i> : Facilitating the Robotics and AI Discussion through Science Fiction" by Jaime Wright in <i>Theology and Westworld</i> (eds. Juli Gittiger and Shayna Sheinfeld). In CANVAS	Quiz #6
13	AI Ethics, Part 1	<a href="#">"There is No Trolley Problem"</a> (by Dr. Jasmine McNealy)  "Westworld" (select scenes)  <a href="#">"AI Ethics is All about Power"</a>	
14	Course Presentations	Class Presentations	Presentation Due



15		Class Presentations	Presentation Due
16	Course Conclusions	Review for Final	Final Exam

## GRADING POLICIES:

### METHODS BY WHICH STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED & THEIR GRADE DETERMINED:

Assignment	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Midterm exam	100	20 %
6 quizzes	100 (each)	30% (6% each except the lowest grade which will be dropped)
Presentation	100	20 %
Attendance, CANVAS discussion posts, and in-class participation	100	10%
Final exam	100	20 %

Students will be expected to participate actively in class discussions. In this regard, it is necessary to read and analyze in depth the assigned texts before coming to class. To foster good participation, cell phone use is prohibited during class, and eating or drinking should be kept at a minimum. The participation grade will also include posting once a week on the Canvas Discussion Board and reacting to another student's post.

Your grades will be based on 6 quizzes (35 minutes, including basic definitions, text commentaries and short essays; your lowest quiz grade will be dropped); a presentation, a Midterm and a Final Exam (50 minutes, same content, the Midterm will tackle the materials studied during the first half of the semester, and the Final the materials studied during the second half).

You will pick your presentation topic by the 4<sup>th</sup> week of class, submit an outline of the presentation by the 7<sup>th</sup> week, and presentations will be the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> week to receive feedback before the end of the course.

**INFORMATION ON CURRENT UF GRADING POLICIES FOR ASSIGNING GRADE POINTS:** For more information, see: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html> and <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	93 – 100%	4.0
A-	90 – 92%	3.67
B+	87 – 89%	3.33
B	84 – 86%	3.00
B-	80 – 83%	2.67
C+	77 – 79%	2.33
C	74 – 76%	2.00
C-	70 – 73%	1.67
D+	67 – 69%	1.33
D	64 – 66%	1.00
D-	60 – 63%	.67
E, I, NG, S- U, WF		0.00

Grading  
Scale

## COURSE POLICIES:

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Daily attendance will be taken. Students are expected to arrive at class on time and have prepared the homework. There will be a 5 point deduction from your final grade each time you are late to class, arrive unprepared, or are absent. Work handed in that does not have an excused absence will have a 5 point deduction for each day it is late.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**QUIZ/EXAM DATES/POLICIES:** You must notify the course instructors ASAP if you cannot meet your obligations for the course. Students will receive one week to prepare for any makeup assignment, if circumstances allow it.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** Students are expected to complete all assigned work by the due dates. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation.

**ASSIGNMENT POLICY:** It is expected that you will arrive on time to class ready to work and have assigned work completed by the start of class. It will be difficult for you to fulfill the course goals and participate effectively in class without your synchronous participation. Our goal is to create a learning environment that supports and encourages your learning, so please do not hesitate to contact the instructors if you have any questions or concerns about the course or course assignments.

**ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## UF POLICIES:

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** “Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) ) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**CLASS DEMEANOR OR NETIQUETTE:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, class discussions and CANVAS discussion posts. You should always be respectful of others’ opinions – you are allowed to disagree with others, but should express your disagreement in a respectful way. Eating and drinking are strongly discouraged during class time and using a cell phone during class is not allowed. Disruptions in class will result in a 5 point deduction to your final grade each time they occur.

Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [umatter.ufl.edu/](http://umatter.ufl.edu/) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit [counseling.ufl.edu/](http://counseling.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit [shcc.ufl.edu/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/).

University Police Department: Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://police.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

E-learning technical support for CANVAS: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Library Support: [cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask](https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask) various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

### In Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.