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AI POLICY FOR A GRADUATE SEMINAR (Master's level)

At the end of this seminar, students produce a 15-page research paper. For some it is their first-ever research paper and/or paper of that length.

ChatGPT is new and educators are still figuring out how to use it. This policy will evolve over time.

This class currently allows the following uses of chatGPT for your **final paper only**. If you use chatGPT you must keep records of everything you asked the AI to do, you must ask the AI to explain its choices through at least one follow-up question, and you must append an AI report to your paper (details below).

1. Don't use it at all. Write your assignments as you normally would.

Before doing 2, 3, or 4, please read this guide by Ethan Mollick, a Penn professor, about what AI can and can't do.

2. Brainstorming: helping you think of ideas. This can include topics, research questions, etc. If you do this, be sure to ask the AI to explain why its ideas fit the criteria you lay out.

3. Improving: teaching you how to edit or giving you alternate suggestions [i.e., being an extra brain for you]. If you do this, be sure to ask the AI why it made the changes it did.

4. Outlining: writing an outline for your paper. If you do this, provide the AI with as much information as possible, and ask it for several options for the outline.

Currently the course does not permit you to use the AI to write a first draft.

AI Report

This report should include:

1. Your prompts: what you asked it to do for you
2. The follow-up questions that you asked: for instance, asking it to explain why what it did was useful/fit the criteria/improved upon your example
3. Your opinion: what you took from this experience and what its limitations were
4. Which of its material you used (quote it)

Do you have other ideas for how to use this tool in an interesting and educational way? Let me know!

A CAUTIONARY NOTE

Please bear in mind that chatGPT has limits (these I've adapted, again, from Ethan Mollick):

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- It often gets facts wrong (please confirm all facts; you're responsible for the content you submit)
- It has no judgment. You have judgment. Just because it writes an essay doesn't make that essay good. You will have to work to make it give you something good.
- There are many things it can't do: for instance, it's not very good at close analysis of moments of music, or at explaining how it feels to listen to a piece, or anything personal. Its writing is formulaic, even if it imitates writing styles well.

AND

This policy requires that everyone in the class use it honestly. The honor code still applies, always. Please do not have chatGPT write an essay for you, change a few words, and pass it off as your own. If you use it, explain how you use it in detail. If I suspect cheating, I will have to report it to the Dean, who will then have to summon you for questioning. If this happens I will then have to reconsider the policy for the whole class. Please don't use this tool to cut corners. It's dishonest and it prevents you from learning.