

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
STS325: RESPONSIBLE AI
Spring 2025

Instructor: Ms. Manail Anis
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Office: Cullimore Hall 315
Office Hours: By appointment

Class Meetings & Location:
Fridays 1-3:50pm, CKB 314

Course Description:

STS325 explores the global impact of Responsible AI. It starts by placing AI and technology development within the global innovation ecosystem, and examines exposure to some instances of the impact of AI on humans. Students will explore what constitutes Responsible AI. We will examine AI's strengths, weaknesses, and potential for both unintended consequences and positive social impact worldwide. Through case studies and hands-on exercises, we will learn about AI's application across sectors, analyze its economic and social value, and explore policy and legal frameworks for AI governance. With insights from current legal and regulatory development and industry-leading AI governance frameworks, students will gain practical understanding of responsible AI strategies and learn to spot current and expected legal and regulatory trends for the technology. The course culminates in group presentations, where students will propose solutions for harnessing AI's potential responsibly, preparing them to ask and address critical questions for an AI-driven future.

Course Outcomes:

Course participants will gain from the course:

- Critical engagement with socio-technical questions arising in an AI-driven future
- Understanding of the regulatory trends for AI in a fast-changing legal environment

Course Materials:

Unmasking AI by Joy Buolamwini, 2023
Digital Surveillance - film, 2023
The Social Dilemma - film, 2020

All other required course readings will be posted on Canvas as .pdf files

Assignments & Evaluation:

Participation 15%
Short Reflection Paper 1 5%
Short Reflection Paper 2 5%
Short Reflection Paper 3 5%
Quiz 20%
Final Exam 25%
Group Presentation 25%

Grading Scale:

A ≥ 90
B+ 89-85
B 84-80
C+ 79-75
C 74-70
D 69-60
F < 60

Artificial Intelligence Policy:

Student use of artificial intelligence (AI) is permitted in this course. AI usage must be cited as is shown within the [NJIT Library AI citation](#) page.

Technology Policy:

Students are allowed to use both smartphones and laptops during class meetings, but **for class-related activities only**. In the case of a need for emergency phone use, please excuse yourself from the classroom. Violations of this policy may result in a participation/attendance grade deduction.

FULL COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Week/Dates</u>	<u>Themes</u>	<u>Topics & Activities</u>
Week 1: Jan 24, 2025	Responsible AI within the Global Innovation Ecosystem	Introduction to the Course Syllabus Overview & Goal-Setting
Week 2: Jan 31, 2025	What is *NOT* Responsible AI?	The COMPAS Algorithm & Other ‘Greatest Hits’ in Harmful AI
Week 3: Feb 07, 2025	What is Responsible AI?	Personally Identifiable Information & Data Fusion + in-class team assignment
Week 4: Feb 14, 2025	Humans & AI	HCI (human-computer interaction) and the complex relationship between technology and humans
Week 5: Feb 21, 2025	Critical AI & Data Literacy	Interrogating personal use of AI, becoming informed consumers and addressing misuse, exploitation, and safety concerns. Building a critical lens in the collection, usage, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of data
Week 6: Feb 28, 2025	Responsible AI & The Law	Policy, Legal and Compliance Frameworks & Developments
Week 7: Mar 7, 2025	Social Impact of AI in the US	A Study of ‘Unintended Consequences’
Week 8: Mar 14, 2025	Global Social Impact of AI & QUIZ (25% of grade)	Technology Transfer to the Non-US World
Spring Break: Mar 21, 2025	SPRING BREAK	No class
Week 9: Mar 28, 2025	A ‘So-So Technology’?	Measuring the Economic and Social Value Generated by AI
Week 10: Apr 04, 2025	Industry Frameworks	How Big Tech governs AI
Week 11: Apr 11, 2025	AI Safety & The Future of AI Innovation	Legal, regulatory & industry trends in the 2nd Trump Administration
Good Friday: April 18, 2025	GOOD FRIDAY	No class
Week 12: Apr 25, 2025	Making Positive Impact with Responsible AI	Group Presentations (25% of Grade)
May7, in lieu of May 9, 2025	READING PERIOD	-
Week 14: May 16, 2025	FINAL EXAM (DATE TBD)	25% of Grade

Grading Policies:

- *The course will adhere very strictly to assignment due dates.* Makeup exams will *only* be administered in cases of documented conflicts.
- There is no makeup for late reflection papers. Following an emergency, contact the instructor.
- Each course participant should engage often in discussions of the reading assignments and is expected to have read the material for the lecture of that day. Students must engage in civil discussion of course material. Repeated failures to be respectful of others in discussions will result in a harsh deduction to the participation/attendance grade.
- There is an attendance policy (with two unexcused absences permitted) because participation (speaking, attentiveness, engagement etc) is crucial to facilitate an engaging classroom environment. Unexcused absences beyond the allotted two will drop the attendance grade in 5% increments.
- Course participants will write three 1-2 pp. reflection papers according to a simple rubric.
- There is a final exam and a quiz covering the course content. To receive a final grade, students *must* sit for all scheduled exams and quizzes.
- A final student presentation based on a specific topic is due at the end of term. Students will: (1) choose a specific issue, (2) organize into a group of 3-4 (3) develop and present their ideas together. Every student in the presentation group will receive the same grade for this presentation.

Accommodations and Disability:

Students with any accommodation needs and/or requests (e.g., accessible instructional texts and materials) are strongly encouraged to inform the instructor in a timely manner. Any accommodation requests in accordance with NJIT's accessibility policy and services should be submitted through proper institutional channels.

Statement on Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: [NJIT Academic Integrity Code](#).