



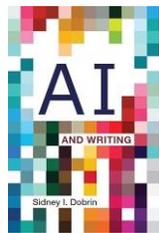
## Course Description

“Explore the ethical use of AI tools for writing and discover the benefits and limitations of AI through the entire process through hands-on activities using ChatGPT (and other Generative AI tools such as Claude and Bard). Students will play with these tools for idea generation, drafting, feedback, grammar checking, research, citing and peer review in addition to reading about the history of AI and discussing its ethical use, impacts, strengths and weaknesses.”

### Office Hours

By email, anytime. Zoom meetings by arrangement/appointment.

### Textbook



***AI and Writing***  
**Sidney I. Dobrin**  
**Broadview Press, 2023**

## Course Requirements

| Assignment                                | Percentage of Final Mark | Due Date  |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Discussion Forums                         | 10%                      | Ongoing weekly (remember to do one post by Thursday, the other by Sunday each week) |
| Human vs. AI Comparison (short paper)     | 15%                      | January 21  |
| AI for Thesis and Outline                 | 10%                      | February 11   |
| AI for Research and Citation              | 20%                      | March 3   |
| AI for Feedback                           | 20%                      | March 24  |
| Final Persuasive Paper + Reflection on AI | 25%                      | April 8   |

## Assignment Format



Your essay is to be typed and double-spaced and submitted as .doc, .docx, or .rtf format. Do not use a cover page, as these are particularly unnecessary for online submissions. When using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA or APA citation format.

## Submitting Assignments



Assignments are due on the dates specified on the schedule. Late essays will be penalized by **3% per day** unless I have permitted an extension on the due date. You must speak to me ahead of time for an extension and provide a suitable reason. Weekly class sessions will run from Monday to Sunday, so writing assignments for a particular week are due by Sunday night at 11:59PM, Eastern Time. If they're submitted a little past midnight, say before I wake up the next morning, there won't be any penalty. All this is designed to help last-minute, weekend editors.

Assignments go to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) for plagiarism checking. This happens automatically when you submit it to the **Assignments** area. Turnitin will generate a report for you, detailing the percentage of your paper that has been taken from sources, which I will also look at. You can see these reports too as soon as you submit your assignment.

You are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments submitted in case we need to discuss your writing and if you want to submit it for the annual Marie Smibert Writing Program Student Achievement Prizes in April.

## Attendance/Discussion Board Participation



Obviously, we do not meet formally in a Distance Studies course. Therefore, attendance and participation on the Discussion Board are intertwined. While online classes are generally asynchronous, they are not correspondence or self-paced. You must attend class (defined as logging into our OWL section and interacting, posting questions and thoughts) **at least once by Thursday** for a total of **two** (or more) separate posts per week (a week is defined as running from Monday to Sunday). **At least one post must be a reply/response to another student and at least one must respond to the main discussion question.** I will assign a weekly number grade from 0-10 based on whether you have fulfilled the posting requirements described in further detail below—1) **quality of posting**, 2) **engagement** (frequency and number of posts made).

### 1) *Quality of Posting*

All posts on the Discussion Board must

- ✓ Contribute something meaningful to the board.
- ✓ Support your opinion with sufficient reasons or evidence.
- ✓ Display clarity of writing, organization and grammatical usage appropriate to the audience and situation.

Postings should not

- ⊗ Contain disrespectful, insulting, or offensive language.
- ⊗ Be excessively long (more than one screen length) or excessively short.
- ⊗ Be unrelated to the forum topic.

⊖ Only say things like “I agree with you” or “Nice comment!” that do not contribute any substance.

The use of racist or any language that works against the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will not be tolerated.

## 2) *Engagement*

Two posts are required. Feel free to post more.

**Note (not directly applicable for an online class but necessary to include on syllabi):** a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of ‘make-up class’ in another course **will** count as non-attendance, and **will** attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at the University of Western Ontario **shall not require** a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict with that student’s other scheduled class times. If you are asked or ‘required’ to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counsellor in your Dean’s office. If you elect to miss a class in order to write such a test, that is **your** choice; your absence will not be excused.

## Scholastic Offences

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, which can be found here:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently Western and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.”

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools for information gathering and preliminary research purposes only (unless otherwise indicated in the assignment instructions). These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. It is essential, however, that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize, develop, and articulate their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, but students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism in any form.

Note that for all assignments completed outside of class, the instructor can require you to attend an in-person interview to discuss your work before a mark is finalized. Assignments should always reflect students’ own thoughts and constitute independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines,

students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, supports independent inquiry, and encourages original written contributions.

## Prerequisites

Ensuring you have the correct prerequisite(s) is your responsibility. “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

The prerequisite for registration in this course is:

At least 65% in one of Writing 2101F/G, Writing 2125F/G (or the former Writing 2121F/G), Writing 2111F/G, Writing 2130F/G or Writing 2131F/G; or at least 65% in one of Writing 1000F/G, Writing 1030F/G, or Writing 1031F/G; or at least 65% in each of MIT 1020E (or both of MIT 1021F/G and MIT 1022F/G) and MIT 1025F/G; or permission of the Department (consult the Undergraduate Program Director, Writing).

## Academic Accommodation

Accommodation by Instructor for work worth less than 10% of the overall grade in a course:

Instructors are encouraged, in the first instance, to arrange participation requirements and multiple small assignments in such a way as to allow students some flexibility. A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline.

In arranging accommodation, instructors will use good judgement and ensure fair treatment for all students. Instructors must indicate on the course outline how they will be dealing with work worth less than 10% of the total course grade. In particular, instructors must indicate whether medical documentation will be required for absences, late assignments or essays, missed tests, laboratory experiments or tutorials, etc.

Where medical documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Academic Counselling/Dean’s office, who will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. Given the University’s Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy ([https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/general/privacy.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/privacy.pdf)), instructors may not collect medical documentation.

## Medical Accommodation Policy

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is

documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s).

Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration, and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

#### Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics

A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

#### Documentation from Student Health Services

At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

#### Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

Please note that individual instructors will not under any circumstances accept or read medical documentation directly offered by a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds or for related reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an 'Attendance' policy in the course). All medical documentation must be submitted to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of a student's home Faculty.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:  
[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [MentalHealth@Western](mailto:MentalHealth@Western):

(<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519-661-3030 (during class hours) or 519-433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.

## Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

## Statement on Gender-based Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, here. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

## Other Student Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

## Intellectual Property and Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g., PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

## Term Schedule

| Date                           | Topic + To Do   | Readings  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Week 1 (Jan 8-14)              | <u>Introducing Yourself and Generative AI</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create <a href="#">ChatGPT</a> and <a href="#">ClaudeAI</a> or <a href="#">Bard</a> accounts.</li> <li>• Overview of AI writing tools, including ChatGPT and other similar programs.</li> <li>• “Submit Ethical Use of AI” pledge</li> </ul> | Reading: Chapter 1 of Dobrin<br>Optional (if really interested in ChatGPT, requires LinkedIn account): <a href="#">LinkedIn Learning Introduction to Generative AI with GPT</a> |
| Week 2 (Jan 15-21)             | <u>Generative AI Pros and Cons</u><br>Comparison of AI tools<br><br>Hands-on experience with ChatGPT and other tools, including how to input prompts (prompt engineering) and generate text.<br><br>Short Writing Assignment: Prompt Generation and Reflection (15%) due January 21   | Reading: Chapter 5 of Dobrin<br>Reading: <a href="#">Tips for ChatGPT Prompts (LinkedIn article)</a>  |
| Week 3 (Jan 22-28)             | <u>History and Evolution of AI</u><br><u>Hallucinations</u>   | Reading: Chapter 2 of Dobrin  |
| Week 4 (Jan 29-Feb 4)          | <u>Ethics of AI</u>   | Reading: Chapter 3 of Dobrin<br><a href="#">Western’s AI Policy</a>   |
| Week 5 (Feb 5-11)              | <u>Writing with AI – Drafting, Pre-writing</u><br>Short Writing Assignment: Persuasive Thesis and Outline Generation (10%) due Feb 11   | Reading: Chapter 4 of Dobrin  |
| Week 6 (Feb 12-16, short week) | <u>Writing with AI – Audience and Purpose, Contexts for Writing</u>   |   |

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|---|--|--|
| <p>Week 7 (Feb 26-Mar 3)<br/>After Reading Week</p> | <p><u>Writing with GenAI - Research</u></p> <p>Short Writing Assignment: AI for Research, Citation and Paraphrasing (20%) due Mar 3</p>  |  |
| <p>Week 8 (Mar 4-10)</p>                            | <p><u>Writing with GenAI</u></p> <p><b>Rough Draft of Final Persuasive Assignment due on 3/10 for peer reviewing in the discussion board next week</b></p>                                 |  |
| <p>Week 9 (Mar 11-17)</p>                           | <p><u>Writing with GenAI</u></p> <p>Peer Review discussion board (Post draft at the start of the week and reply to 2 classmates by Sunday)</p>   |  |
| <p>Week 10 (Mar 18-24)</p>                          | <p><u>Writing with GenAI - AI as Reviewer and Grammar Checker</u></p> <p>Short Writing Assignment: AI for Feedback (20%) due Mar 24</p>  |  |
| <p>Week 11-12 (Mar 25-Apr 8)</p>                    | <p><u>Wrap up</u><br/>The Future/Evolution of AI<br/>Discussion of the benefits and limitations of using AI for academic writing.</p> <p>Final Persuasive Paper and Reflection due 4/8</p> | <p>Read Chapters 7 and 8 of Dobrin</p> |