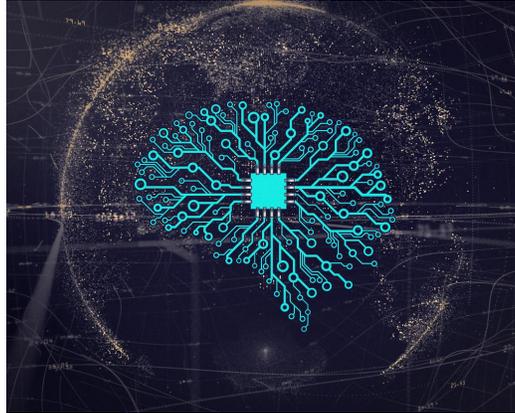**"Take care what technologies you use, because your consciousness will, over time, come to be shaped like those technologies."**

--Johann Hari, *Stolen Focus*

Winter 2024 EWRT2
Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking

Professor	Chesa Caparas
Email	caparasfrancesca@fhda.edu or via Canvas Messenger
Office Hours (online via Zoom)	Mondays 3:30-5:20pm and Thursdays 3-4:50pm Link in Canvas

Course Description

For millions of years, humans have been developing tools to help carry out human tasks. Fast forward to today and we have generative AI tools like ChatGPT and Dall-E, which seem to think, write, and even create art the way humans do. What does this mean for us? What does it mean to think, work, or even live as a human during these times? Furthermore, if these machines have been trained on large datasets of human thought and behavior, what should we do when they act in biased and harmful ways just like humans?

In our EWRT2 class, we'll explore these and other questions regarding new technologies. Through articles, books, podcasts, and other material focused on AI ethics, we'll start to develop a critical lens in analyzing the nuances of generative AI. This will culminate in a research project at the end of the quarter.

Student Learning Outcomes

These are taken from De Anza's [Active Course Outline](#) for EWRT2

- Apply critical thinking skills to writing and complex readings.
- Demonstrate academic (analytical, argumentative) writing based on reading of complex texts.
- Demonstrate analysis, comparison, synthesis, and documentation of independent research.

Course Requirements and Policies

Required Materials
This is an online course. Internet access is required. All course materials can be found via Canvas except for the articles, book, and other materials that you will need to find during your final research project.

Assignments and Grading Policy
There will be weekly written responses and 5 essays during the quarter. Since the course is fully online there is no grade for attendance. Instead, there will be group discussions to assess participation and weekly check-out assignments to see how you are progressing with the material.

You can see the points for each assignment on Canvas. You must complete all course work with a satisfactory grade (C or better) in order to pass the class.

Grading Breakdown

A+ = 98-100+%	B+ = 88-89%	C+ = 78-79%	D+ = 68-72%
A = 93-97%	B = 83-87%	C = 73-77%	D = 63-67%
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	There is no C- grade at De Anza.	D- = 60-62%

Online Etiquette
Please do your part to keep this course a safe space. You should feel free to share your ideas and express yourself but you should also be aware and respectful that others might have a different opinion than you do. Everybody in this class has a right to be heard. Be mindful that each person brings a different perspective based on her/his/their own experience. If you wish to disagree with a specific argument or claim, you must do so intelligently and respectfully.

When you are asked to respond to your peers' work, be thoughtful and constructive in your feedback. Remember that our ultimate goal is to learn from each other.

Academic Integrity and My AI Policy

Let's be honest; most of us are already using AI. If you search on Google or Bing, watch YouTube or Netflix, or shop on Amazon, you're already using AI. The thorny question is: to what extent does using generative AI (like ChatGPT or Dall-E) violate an educational institution's academic integrity standards?

When you submit an essay or other assignment, the expectation is that it is your writing. Any writing done by another person (or machine, in this case) should be properly cited.

For this class, you are allowed to use AI tools, but whenever text or images have been generated by these tools, **you must accurately attribute which parts were generated by the tool and which were generated by you.** Likewise, if I ever use generative AI to evaluate your work, I will tell you which parts were my feedback and which parts were generated by the tool.

NOTE: these tools often generate false or misleading information. A large part of this class involves developing the critical thinking skills to approach all information with a healthy amount of skepticism and solid fact-checking skills. Therefore, please be aware that you are expected to cross-reference information generated by AI tools with other vetted sources.

Opting Out

This course focuses on the ethics of generative AI but it would be unethical of me to force anyone to use these tools. If you have strong feelings against using ChatGPT, Dall-E, Google, Bing, YouTube, or other AI tools, please set up a meeting with me to discuss alternatives.