UF | Center for Teaching Excellence
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

INSPIRED TEACHING
a monthly newsletter offering tips & strategies for great teaching

July 2021
Artificial Intelligence Across the Curriculum

Featured Podcast

Teaching Beyond the Podium
Practical Ways to Teach AI | Dr. Jasmine McNealy

Practical Ways to Teach AI

Learning about artificial intelligence isn't just for computer science majors! Dr. Jasmine McNealy, Associate Professor in the College of Journalism and Communications offers practical strategies and useful resources to help faculty learn about AI and apply it to their teaching, no matter the discipline.
Listen to Practical Ways to Teach AI!

Strategy of the Month

Create Connections to Everyday Uses of AI

It may be difficult to envision how artificial intelligence can be woven into your course's curriculum. Helping students to understand the many applications and uses of AI, the benefits and problems that arise with AI, and the ethics involved do not require students to know or even learn coding.

According to University of Florida scientist Matt Gitzendanner, one easy strategy is to have students interact with common apps or websites that use AI and foster discussions about the AI implications in your field. This is a great way to introduce students to AI!

Joel Davis, lecturer in the Warrington College of Business, suggests engaging students right away with interesting and modern examples of AI uses and tools. Joel also recommends creating classes and assignments that are agile and take into consideration the different levels of knowledge students bring to the course. To make a course (especially one with basic coding) accessible to students, scaffold instructions and provide low barriers for entry-level students.

If you are curious about AI uses and applications in your field and want to explore some of the work being done by faculty across campus, check out these short videos form UF's AI Town Hall.
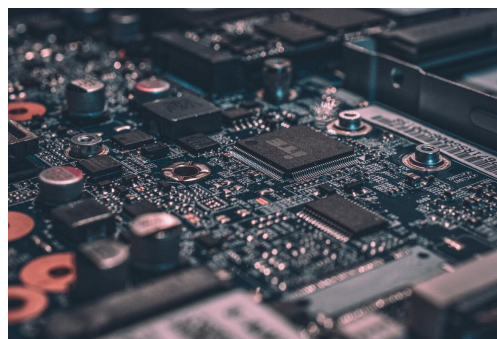
Featured Workshop

Elements of AI

Offered by by Reaktor and the University of Helsinki
The Elements of AI online courses will help you discover what AI is, what can (and can't) be done with AI, and how to start creating AI methods. These free courses combine theory with practical exercises and can be completed at your own pace. The University of Florida's Adding AI to your Course Faculty Learning Community (FLC) is meeting over the summer to discuss introductory concepts of AI from the Elements of AI online courses and the applications of these to courses. Graduate students and post-docs are welcome— no AI experience is necessary! The AI FLCs will resume their regular meetings this fall and spring via Zoom.

If you have questions or are interested in the AI FLC activities, please contact Megan Mocko. If you would like to join the Adding AI to your Course FLC, please email Alexandra Bitton-Bailey.

Helpful Tip

Common Misconceptions About AI

As AI becomes a part of our everyday lives, we should recognize some of the common misconceptions about it:

#1: Learning about AI is only useful to those in the sciences.

False! The social sciences and humanities play a major role in the implementation of AI and how it affects collective groups of people.

#2: I need to know how to code in order to teach about AI.

Also false! Developing an understanding of what AI is and how it works is enough to start connecting it to your course content.

#3: AI is too difficult to understand.

AI can be hard to define since it is portrayed as a complex, futuristic tool. Surprisingly, most people interact with AI every day!

To dive deeper into these misconceptions, listen to Dr. Jasmine McNealy's podcast, Practical Ways to Teach AI.

Did You Know?

UF is Offering 15 New AI-Focused Undergraduate Courses

15 new undergraduate courses focused on AI will be offered this fall as well as the brand new AI undergraduate certificate. The new certificate includes 3 foundational courses: *Frontiers of AI* (1-credit survey course, ENG 1905), *Fundamentals of AI* (EEL 3872), and *Ethics, Data, and Technology* (PHI 3681). For more information about future offerings, visit the AI initiatives website.

New Undergraduate Courses

College of Business

• Foundations of Business Analytics & Artificial Intelligence

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

• AI in Agricultural and Life Sciences

College of Journalism and Communications

• AI in Media and Society

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

• AI in Antiquity and Today
• The World and Big Data
• GeoAI - Geographic Artificial Intelligence
• AI in the Social Sciences

College of Design, Construction and Planning

• AI in the Built Environment

College of Health and Human Performance

• GIS & Spatial Analysis for Tourism and Social Data
• AI Revolutions and Applications in THEM
• Smart Cities, Attractions, and Theme Parks

College of Engineering

• Advanced Data Analytics

College of Nursing

• Leadership and Innovation in Nursing/ Professional Nursing Transformation

College of Public Health and Health Professions

• Data Visualization in the Health Sciences
• Ethics in Artificial Intelligence: Who's Protecting Our Health

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Spotlight

AI Faculty Learning Communities at UF

Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs)
provide an opportunity for instructors to
discuss and share ideas about a topic

of interest to the group. The Center for Teaching Excellence is offering 2 FLCs focused on AI and teaching:

1. Adding AI to Your Course Offering

This FLC teaches the fundamentals of AI and helps you incorporate them into your existing or newly developed course as one module. *No AI experience necessary!*

2. Advanced AI: Applications Across the Curriculum

This FLC helps you build a skeleton framework for AI that could be used in any course taught at UF. Discussion topics include: how to introduce AI basic topics, identify use cases familiar to the average student, and creating clear learning objectives that reach across disciplines. *Some AI experience required.*

For more information about these FLCs, visit the CTE FLC Webpage. To participate, email Alexandra Bitton-Bailey.

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