

# SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

## Fall 2024 Syllabus

# COLLEGE AND CAREER WITH AI

### PART 1: COURSE INFORMATION

- **ID 96i** | Class Section: 02 | Course ID: 201570 | Class Number: 86943
- **Instructor:** Dr. Sasha Sidorkin, [sidorkin@csus.edu](mailto:sidorkin@csus.edu)
- **Mondays** 5:30-7:10, on Zoom
- **Grading:** Letter Graded
- **Office Hours:** By appointment, use [Bookable calendar](#)

ID 96i-02: College and Career with AI is a 2-unit course that introduces students to the real-world applications of Artificial Intelligence. Open to learners from various backgrounds, including high school students eligible for Sac State credit, this course offers a hands-on approach to understanding AI's role in our rapidly evolving digital landscape. Students will explore how AI can be utilized as an information aggregator, coach, counselor, and more, equipping them with valuable skills for academic success, career growth, and enhanced work performance.

### STATEMENT OF RESPECT & INCLUSION

We look forward to creating spaces where bidirectional learning, between learners and instructors, can occur. We must strive to affirm and value each individual's beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences. Every member of this learning community must be treated with dignity and respect.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Sacramento State is proud to recognize the California Native Nations, communities, and peoples throughout the state and acknowledge the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this territory. Our campus operates on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Miwok, Wintu, Maidu, Nisenan (Southern Maidu), and Patwin Native peoples.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

ID96I is a fully online synchronous course accessed through Canvas. Students will expect to spend about 2 hours of synchronous course content each week during this 14-week course (total = 28 academic hours) plus an additional 4 hours a week in independent study, per the CSU Credit hour policy.

Online sessions will be a blend of synchronous group activities and self-paced work using Canvas and other Web sites. Activities will consist of chat, discussion forums, collaborative writing, and web posting.

### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- None; this is a practical course. Students are encouraged to read on the use of AI, but are not required to do so.

## TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

- For this course, you are encouraged to have access to a properly functioning computer or tablet, stable high-speed Internet connection, video camera, microphone, and access to Canvas throughout the semester. You will need your device(s) to access, complete, and upload assigned work on Canvas.
- Please create a free account with OpenAi for the use of ChatGPT 4o at <https://chatgpt.com>
- You can download free software from the [Sacramento State Information Resources and Technology website](#).
- Technical Skills, including [how to navigate Canvas](#).

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## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- If you do not have a computer, information on checking out a laptop (short-and long-term) can be found [on the IRT webpage](#).
- If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas, you can:
  - [Submit a Ticket](#) to Report a Problem to the Information Resources and Technology Support Team
  - Call the Canvas Support line at Sac State: M–F 8a.m. – 5p.m. (916) 278-2450.
  - [Schedule a Consultation](#) to get assistance with Canvas and other Academic technologies.
  - Visit the [Canvas Student Video Guides](#)
  - Visit the Canvas [Student Web Tutorials](#)

**Important Note:** This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. I highly encourage students to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus daily. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through Canvas messages.

## PART 2: STUDENT RESOURCES

### INFORM YOUR INSTRUCTOR OF ANY ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDED

*Sacramento State is committed to ensuring an accessible learning environment where course or instructional content are usable by all students and faculty. If you believe that you require disability-related academic adjustments for this class (including pregnancy-related disabilities), please immediately contact Disability Access Center (DAC) to discuss eligibility. A current accommodation letter from DAC is required before any modifications, above and beyond what is otherwise available for all other students in this class will be provided. Please be advised that disability-related academic adjustments are not retroactive. DAC is located on the first floor of Lassen Hall 1008. Phone is 916-278-6955 and e-mail is [dac@csus.edu](mailto:dac@csus.edu). For a complete listing of services and current business hours visit the [Disability Access Center website](#).*

### SAC STATE'S COMMITMENT TO BASIC FOUNDATIONAL NEEDS:

If you are experiencing challenges with food, housing, financial or other unique circumstances that are impacting your education, help is just a phone call or email away. The Crisis Assistance and Resource Education Support (CARES) office provides case management support for any enrolled student.

### WELLNESS: STUDENT HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES

Your physical and mental health are important to your success as a college student. [Student Health and Counseling Services](#)

[\(SHCS\)](#) in The WELL offers medical, counseling, and wellness services to help you get and stay healthy during your time at Sac State. SHCS offers: Primary Care medical services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, transgender care, and immunizations; urgent care for acute illness, injuries, and urgent counseling needs; pharmacy for prescriptions and over-the-counter products; mental health counseling, including individual sessions, group counseling, support groups, mindfulness training, and peer counseling; athletic training for sports injury rehabilitation; wellness services, including nutrition counseling, peer-led health education and wellness workshops, and free safer sex supplies; violence and sexual assault support services. Most services are covered by the Health Services fee and available at no additional cost.

## TITLE IX

Sac State is committed to supporting students and fostering a campus environment free of sexual misconduct and gender-based discrimination. If a student chooses to disclose to a faculty or staff member an experience related to sexual misconduct which includes, but is not limited to rape, relationship violence, or stalking, all faculty and staff members are obligated to report this disclosure to the university's Title IX Coordinator. Contact Sac State's Title IX Coordinator, Skip Bishop, at (916) 278-5770 or email at [william.bishop@csus.edu](mailto:william.bishop@csus.edu). Upon receipt of the report, the Title IX Coordinator will contact you to inform you of your rights and options as a survivor and connect you with support resources, including resolution options for holding accountable the person who harmed you. Students who elect not to discuss their experience with the Title IX Coordinator can speak confidentially to the following confidential resources:

- Student Health & Counseling Services at The WELL
  - On Campus Phone Number: 916-278-6461
  - Website: [www.csus.edu/shcs](http://www.csus.edu/shcs)
- Campus Confidential Advocate – Laura Swartzen
  - Email: [weave@csus.edu](mailto:weave@csus.edu)
  - On Campus Phone Number: 916-278-5850 (during business hours)
  - WEAVE 24/7 Hotline: 916-920-2952

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNICATION

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

## UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU MAY DROP THIS COURSE

The University has specific deadlines for a student to drop and withdrawal from a course. According to the [University's Drop and Withdrawal Policy](#), it is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider disenrolling from a course. Academic counselors can help you make the right decision for your circumstances and academic progress. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family. Communicate any conflicts or challenges early so I can support your success.

## PART 3: COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand fundamental AI concepts and their applications in academic and professional settings

2. Utilize AI tools for research, learning, and problem-solving
3. Critically evaluate AI output
4. Apply AI in creative processes and project development
5. Analyze the potential and limitations of AI in various fields

Objectives in this course will be met through assignments and activities below. If you are struggling to keep up with the schedule, please reach out to me as soon as possible. Together we can strategize solutions.

## ASSESSMENTS / ASSIGNMENTS

### DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS

11 required discussion board postings will be assigned throughout the course; see the calendar. Each is worth up to 3 points. Specific instructions and resources needed to support your success will be provided with each discussion board. Read the directions for each discussion board thoroughly. Complete a thoughtful and well-written response to the prompt and to classmates' postings when required.

### FINAL PROJECT

The final project is an AI-assisted project that demonstrates your ability to integrate AI into your academic or professional field. Options include creating a custom bot, developing an AI-assisted visual arts portfolio, writing an AI-assisted research paper, or designing an AI-based resource. The project will be presented to the class in the final week. Please see the assignment instructions and grading rubric on Canvas for detailed information. Think of a final project as something you can demonstrate in your future job or grad school interview as evidence that you can work with AI.

### CLASS ACTIVITIES

Synchronous class activities are designed to connect your learning from the course materials and create a collective learning space for all. Coming prepared to each class allows us to learn from each other and help us reach our goals for this course. Instructions for class activities are provided in Canvas and during class. You are expected to keep your camera on at all times, unless there is a compelling and valid reason not to do so. The visual component of class communications is important in most online classes.

## PART 4: TOPIC OUTLINE/SCHEDULE (MAY BE ADJUSTED)

Date/topic	What to do by the start of class
1. August 26. Introduction to generative AI	Read the syllabus
2. September 2: Labor Day, no class	Play with ChatGPT on your own
3. September 9: AI impact on jobs	1. Find a credible report on AI impact on jobs, summarize it with AI. Paste a link to the report and a summary.
4. September 16: AI as a search enhancer	2. Pick a field of knowledge you know little about. Read up on it with AI. Post a reflection on your experience.
5. September 23 (Asynchronous; no meeting)	3. Post a reflection on your personal experience using AI
6. September 30: AI as a Coach, Tutor and Counselor	4. Ask Ai to explain a concept from any class you do not understand, with examples. Post ONE fragment of AI tutoring you find especially useful
7. October 7: AI as a Brainstorming Partner	5. Brainstorm a topic for one of your future papers for any class. Post the log of your conversation.

Date/topic	What to do by the start of class
8. October 14: AI as a Feedback Provider	6. Ask AI to give you feedback on your paper written for any class. Post its feedback and your assessment of it.
9. October 21: AI as an Editor	7. Find any written product you created before, ask AI to edit it. Post the original, your prompt, the result, and your reflection.
10. October 28: AI as an Image Creator	8. Post an image you created with ChatGPT and the prompt that produced it
11. November 4: AI as a Writing Partner	9. Try the sloppy jotting technique; post the original jot and the resulting text. Provide your critique of the output.
12. November 11: Veteran's day, no class	Think about your final project,
13. November 18: Group Discussion and Project Work	10. Post the idea for your final project; be prepared to discuss it in groups.
14. November 25: Ethical Considerations in AI	11. Post one AI output along with your prompt that contains either inaccurate or biased information/image. Explain the error.
15. December 2: Final Project Presentations and Reflection	Prepare to present your final project in a small group.
16. December 9: All final projects are due, no class	Turn in the final versions of your final project.

## PART 5: ATTENDANCE & GRADING POLICY

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all synchronous online sessions is required and necessary to support your successful completion of the course. All class sessions that require synchronous attendance are listed on the course calendar. Attendance at class meetings and participation in course activities is not only important for your own learning but also critical to everyone's learning and growth.

### EXCUSED ABSENCES

You must complete all work, including in-class activities, to receive credit for this course. Please refer to the course schedule to see the required class activities, which include class discussions, group activities, and presentations.

You will be able to make up work for a missed class by completing an additional assignment in a special discussion thread.

### COMMIT TO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & HONESTY

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom. Practicing academic honesty shows your commitment to the [Hornet Honor Code](#).

At Sacramento State, academic dishonesty is defined as any act of cheating or plagiarism, including the use of artificial intelligence or ChatGPT to generate or complete work. All students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#). Violations of the policy will result in disciplinary action and/or academic sanctions. Academic sanctions may include an oral reprimand, reduction in an assigned grade or failing grade, or a referral for administrative/disciplinary

## GRADING

### GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Points	Description
33	Weekly postings
27	Synchronous Class Activities Participation
50	Final Project
100	Total Points Possible

### LETTER GRADE

Letter Grade	Points				
A	93-100	B	83-86	C-	70-72
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-66
		C	73-76	F	0-59

### VIEWING GRADES IN CANVAS

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the Canvas Grade Book. From a computer or mobile device, select the Grades option from course navigation to view your grades.

The instructor will provide selective feedback on assignments in a timely matter and general comments to the entire class.

### INCOMPLETES

According to the University's Grading Policy, it is the student's responsibility to request a grade of Incomplete. An instructor may or may not grant this request and will consider such factors as student's work to-date and amount of work still to be completed in making a determination. I follow the details of the [university's grading policy for incompletes](#). Please communicate with me as soon as possible so we can discuss strategies to meet your goals.

### GRADE APPEALS

Students who wish to appeal their grade must follow [Sacramento State's Grade Appeal Policy and Procedures](#).

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Course policies are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in Canvas.

Important note: For more information about grading at Sac State, visit the academic policies and grading section of the university catalog.