



NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SOCIETY

AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SACRAMENTO

<http://csus.edu/ai>

Sample Syllabus Statement on the use of AI

Appropriate uses

I encourage the following uses of AI-powered chatbots to help you succeed:

- **Aggregator of information:** Supercharge your web searches by asking to find and summarize information on a particular topic.
- **Coach/Tutor:** Ask it to explain a concept, to give examples; ask it to test your knowledge and skills in any subject. Here is a sample good prompt: “Teach me how to [insert anything] through a constructivist dialogue, where you ask leading questions, and respond depending on my answers. Present your questions one by one.”
- **Brainstorming partner:** Run your ideas by the bot, ask for evidence, objections, additional points.
- **Feedback provider:** Paste your completed assignments along with grading rubrics, ask for feedback.
- **Copy editor:** Ask to proofread your written assignments for grammar and other mechanics.
- **Generating content** (Text, code, images): See limitations for each assignment.

Inappropriate uses

- I will specify limitations on the use of AI in each assignment. Please understand these limitations are there to help you learn foundational skills that you will need for development of more advanced thinking skills. Just because a bot can give you a ready answer does not mean you should simply copy its answer. There is no learning without an effort.
- Using AI without meaningful personal input (“lazy prompt”) and presenting the output as your own original work is unethical and always produces poor results. You will not earn a passing grade by doing it in my course.

Limitations

- Any content produced with AI assistance is your responsibility. You need to check every fact and reference and edit all outputs. Be aware, all AI large language models’ output is 3 to 8 percent hallucinations – fabricated information that looks plausible. These models also demonstrate biases prevalent in society.
- For certain assignments, I will ask you to limit the use of AI. See appropriate statements.

Recommended Chatbots

[Microsoft Co-Pilot](#), [ChatGPT](#), [Claude](#), [Gemini](#), or another LLM.