

# PHIL5110 - Responsible AI Syllabus

## Instructor Information

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## Course Description

The design, development, and deployment of AI interacts with a wide range of values, including fairness, privacy, transparency, autonomy, and well-being. While AI as a technical field is advancing rapidly, enabling applications across domains and sectors, the frameworks, regulations, and ethical tools necessary to realize the promise of AI while promoting and protecting values are not robust. This course develops an understanding of the current legal, regulatory, and ethical landscape, and develops the tools necessary to responsibly engage with AI.

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## Course Outcomes

This course provides you the opportunity to:

- Distinguish the fundamental concepts of responsible AI, including ethics, governance, compliance, and regulatory considerations.
  - Explain the interaction of values with technical and socio-technical systems and trade-offs in AI-based decision making
  - Deploy and use AI systems in a way that adheres to ethical principles, emerging regulatory frameworks, compliance and accountability.
  - Apply ethical and responsible practices, develop strategies to identify and mitigate irresponsible AI design, development, and deployment
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## Required Course Materials

There is no required textbook or other reading materials that need to be purchased. Resources will be linked within the lessons to which they correspond.

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## Course Structure and Activities

There are seven modules in a course and each module represents one week of learning. Assignments are generally due at the end of the week (Sundays) unless otherwise noted. Be sure to check the syllabus, your announcements, and/or assignment pages for exact due dates. Learners are encouraged to look ahead at the assignments in order to best prepare their time.

This course includes the following required activities:

- **Course Project(s):** There will be a summative project that you complete during the course; specific instructions will be found in weekly modules. It may include:
  - **Individual component(s):** These are components to complete on your own, specific instructions will be found in weekly modules.
- **Non-graded Learning Activities:** Throughout the course there will be opportunities for you to self-assess your learning to help you gauge your comprehension of core concepts and uncover any gaps. Even though this is not graded, it is a required component of this course.
- **Discussion:** These weekly submissions aim to provide you with an opportunity to reflect on your learning and to share your thoughts and experiences with the class in a professional community discussion space. This is a great venue to present your ideas or reflections for feedback and to elicit ideas from your peers.
- **Self Reflections:** These weekly submissions are ungraded but a critical reflection point so that both you and your instructor can understand your progress throughout the course. Even though this is not graded, it is a required component of this course.

### Late Assignment Policy

#### **Late Policy:**

*Students are responsible for submitting assignments by posted deadlines. Deductions will be automatically applied to late submissions based on the time elapsed after the deadline:*

1. **10% deduction within 24 hours**
2. **25% deduction within 24-48 hours**
3. **50% deduction within 48-72 hours**
4. **Zero credit if submitted more than 72 hours after the deadline**

*Exceptions to the late policy will be considered only in the event of an approved extension request.*

**Extension Request Policy:**

*Students should only request an extension in the event of an emergency or other extenuating circumstance that impacts academic progress. To make an extension request, students should submit the extension request form and include a detailed explanation of the emergency or extenuating circumstance and how much additional time is being requested. When foreseeable, requests should occur before the assignment deadline. Requests received more than 24 hours after the deadline will not be considered. Extension requests will be considered by the faculty member on a case-by-case basis. If approved by the faculty member, it is at the discretion of the faculty member to determine the extended deadline and any associated penalties.*

**Extension Request Monitoring and Accountability:**

*The program team tracks and monitors all extension requests. Repeated requests for extensions across multiple courses may raise concerns regarding a student's overall academic progress and time management skills. Such patterns will be reviewed, and interventions may be implemented to provide support and address underlying issues. Students are encouraged to manage their time effectively and seek help proactively to avoid frequent extension requests.*

*There are no exceptions or extensions for the final project/assignment deadlines in a course. They must be turned in by the deadline to receive a grade, due to the nature of the final grade entry deadlines enforced by Northeastern University.*

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## Discussion Board Guidelines

This course incorporates discussion board assignments which provide opportunities to engage with your peers in discussions around weekly themes and topics.

**When you post**, think of a thesis and how best to support it. If you are the first to post, be sure to provide a careful analysis, strong (bold) argument (thesis), and open-ended questions that invite dialogue. Be sure to check back to see if anybody has responded to you. Does someone's comment make you think twice about your view? Help keep the conversation going and move the dialogue along. Introduce new ideas, but also build on what others have said.

**When responding to others**, look for posts that contradict or support your own thoughts, or posts that seem to fall short on an aspect that is important to you. In your response, you can also turn your own thoughts into questions, offer your position, or play the devil's advocate.

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## Class Schedule

*Please note:* For more information about specific assignments, see assignment pages in Canvas, and refer to the Course Summary below for exact due dates.

Activity	% of Grade	Due
Introduction or Academic Integrity Attestation	0%	Week 1
Check Your Knowledge Quizzes	0%	Week 1 - 6
Self-Assessments	0%	Weeks 1 - 7
Class Discussion	20%	Weeks 1 - 7
Responsible AI in the Wild	15%	Weeks 1 - 3
Responsible AI Handbook OR VAD/VSD Analysis Case Study	50%	Weeks 4 - 6
Final Presentation	15%	Week 7
Practice Activities (Logic Practice)	0%	Weeks 1 - 5

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## Grade Distribution

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grading Scale	
A = 93%-100%	C+= 77%-79.9%
A- = 90%-92.9%	C = 73%-76.9%
B+= 87%-89.9%	C-= 70%-72.9%
B = 83%-86.9%	F = Below 70%
B- = 80%-82.9%	