Guidelines & Policy for Using AI PROGRAMS

Context: Much of what AI offers has been available to students, from computer programs suggesting phrasing, grammar assistance and translator programs to google sites that offer summaries and "save your grade" information to those sites that will allow students to download essays or buy customized essays online. And just as some of these online tools can improve or detract from your work and/or lead to charges of plagiarism, so it is with AI. There are some advantages, but you need to be aware of the risks as well.

Benefits:
Can help you generate ideas, as well as develop and revise your draft (though your teacher, tutor, classmates can do so as well—or even better!). **In *this course*, rely on traditional resources: Instructor, tutors, librarian, peers.**

Disadvantages/Risks as currently identified by research:
- Not all AI programs are of equal quality--the lower the cost, the less sophisticated the program.
- AI gathers information from all sources on the web and therefore reproduces biases, stereotypes, and disinformation that you will be held responsible for supporting.
- AI can provide well generated, solid sounding, and grammatically correct prose, and you may trust that language over your own instincts and thoughts. That is, if you are struggling to express an idea or insight based on your own response to a reading or your own experience, you may sacrifice that thought (and its originality) because you believe the computer-generated language "sounds better."

MY AI POLICY & GUIDELINES
- Be aware that if you provide minimum prompts, you will get low quality results.
- **Don't trust anything AI (such as ChatGPT) says**. Assume all facts are wrong unless you can verify them through a trusted source. You will be responsible for any errors or omissions provided by the tool. It works best for topics you understand.
- **Any use of AI tools must be acknowledged**. Please be sure to include a paragraph at the end of *any* assignment where you have used AI explaining what you used it for and the specific prompts you used to get your results. **Failure to do so is in violation of academic honesty policies**

MY BEST ADVICE:
- Consider this: Your faculty have earned higher degrees in their subjects; they have chosen what they will teach (an have no doubt done some research on the topic); they have chosen and designed their methods for presenting the materials, and they have designed how to assess your learning in their courses. AI will not have the context and the foundation you do, a context and foundation your faculty will expect to see in your work.
- If you're in a course that uses AI, pay close attention to what you're learning about the drawbacks and responsible use of the program. If you are not currently in such a course, you may want to enroll in one that will teach you the skills you need.