

Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity

The phenomenon that is perplexing educational institutions, especially high schools and colleges, is the burgeoning presence of artificial intelligence, how it should be used, managed, or not used. At the end of the fall 2024 semester, I participated in a day-long seminar organized by the Los Rios Academic Senate and held at Folsom Lake College on this very subject. We discussed a litany of problems AI has introduced or exacerbated, such as: racial and gender bias in AI modeling, AI language dialect discrimination, collecting information from many sources, often inaccurate. AI can also heighten the economic digital divide because students who can afford to purchase more sophisticated versions of an app will have an advantage over students who can only access the free versions.

We also discussed the positives of AI: it can help writers generate ideas, suggest improved phrasing for sentences and paragraphs, suggest corrections for grammar, punctuation, spelling; it can generate graphics, produce outlines, etc. It can also generate facts, although a wise student will check those facts through the library database before accepting them as accurate. Importantly, we engaged with a panel of students who discussed their use of artificial intelligence and what policies they think the colleges should adopt. It was from their insight, and insight from students in my previous English 300 classes, that the policies for this class evolved.

So, this discussion topic is to begin our conversation about your interactions with artificial intelligence. I've included an attachment that is an expanded description of our AI policies, a version of which appears in the syllabus. I also included a powerpoint guide about academic integrity. The expansion of the AI policy document doesn't contain any new guidelines, but does include further explanation of what's already there.

Respond to the following prompt about AI. After posting your response, reply to three of your classmates about their response. Your response earns 15 points, and each of your replies to classmates, 5 points for a max of 15 points. Here is the prompt.

Write about your experiences using generative AI tools. How have you used them in your personal life? How have you used them in school settings or in workplace settings? Which tools have you used? If you don't have any or much experience with AI, describe what you know or believe about it and why you haven't used it. Be as specific as you can, include examples if possible. Last, tell the class whether you foresee using AI applications for assistance with English 300 assignments, what tools you plan to use, and to what extent. At the end of the semester, I will post a discussion topic asking you to reflect on how your use of AI tools impacted your writing and research skills.

Protocols for Maintaining Academic Integrity and a Safe Online Learning Space/Somadhi

The code of conduct for this online class encompasses the honesty with which we approach our assignments and complete our work, and the civility with which we interact with each other. First, let's look at academic honesty and integrity.

The broad definition given to the word "honesty," by the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary states that "honesty implies a refusal to lie, steal, or deceive in any way." Conversely, "integrity implies trustworthiness and incorruptibility to the degree that one is incapable of being false to a trust, responsibility, or pledge."

According to author Charles Lipson, the above means that you should: Do all your academic work yourself (instead of bargaining with someone to do it for you.)

Carefully cite and reference information borrowed from someone.
Quote someone else's words accurately and provide citations for the quotes.
Report researched information accurately without adding your own bias.
The above code of honesty and integrity for researching and writing assignments will be upheld in this class, and activities will be assigned to give students practice in how to properly cite information borrowed from others.

Students found plagiarizing will be warned, given the opportunity to rewrite and correct plagiarized assignments. Repeated instances of plagiarism will result in students receiving failing grades on assignments and possibly failing the class.

Our Class and Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence is now a fact of life in academic institutions, especially colleges and universities. However, it is new, relatively uncharted territory, and institutions are endeavoring to establish the best uses for this tool. At CRC, the responsibility for establishing policy is left up to individual instructors, while overall plagiarism policies have been established by the college. Thus, it is important to include a clear policy statement about how and when artificial intelligence may be used to assist in completing assignments and when it is not in this class.

English 300 AI Policies

Students may use AI applications to do the following: (These policies are for Professor Somadhi's classes. Other instructors will have different policies for their classes.)

- Assist in finding information. However, be aware that AI is not always accurate in the information it gives.
Assist with editing grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and word choice.
- Assist with generating or brainstorming ideas for research and essays.
- Assist with checking the correctness of formatting for research citations and works cited pages.
- Assist with generating graphics. The AI source of the graphics must be cited.

AI applications may not be used to write complete student papers. If a student includes any combination of words from an AI source, those words must be enclosed in quotation marks and cited just as they would be from a book, interview, journal, magazine, or pamphlet. The AI source must also be included on the works cited page.

Paraphrased or summarized information from an AI source must also be cited and included on the works cited page.

While the instructor for this course uses AI applications to check for correctness of research accuracy, formatting, and documentation, AI is not used to craft written feedback to students.

Students found to be using AI inappropriately will be warned privately and given an opportunity to correct the assignment. Students who are found to repeatedly misuse AI will receive a failing grade for the assignments in question, increasing the chance they will receive a failing grade in the class. Students who are considering using a specific AI application but are unsure about its appropriateness should contact the instructor via email to discuss the application in question.