Generative AI Policy

Generative AI technologies, including large language model (LLM) chatbots like ChatGPT, Jasper AI, Google Bard, and Anthropic's Claude, as well as other text paraphrasing/synonym tools and image and audio generators, are having an undeniable impact on how people think about and talk about writing and research, which are the central activities of this class. Because these tools are so ubiquitous, and because what they do—and don't do—is so frequently misunderstood, this policy has been established to clearly outline the expectations of the course with regard to generative AI automated writing tools.

All of the writing assignments for this course require you to produce your own writing, with the aim of demonstrating and refining your thinking, developing your rhetorical responsiveness, and practicing written communication in different genres. Using LLM technology (e.g. ChatGPT) or any automated text generating tool to produce content that is presented as your own writing undermines the purpose of our writing activities and constitutes automated plagiarism (a form of academic misconduct). Using generative AI (such as ChatGPT) in unauthorized or unsanctioned ways in our course is therefore considered an academic integrity violation (see Academic Integrity section below).

In this course, you will be working to develop your own thinking — which you will do through writing. Writing (and reading) are important processes that help us become better critical thinkers and problem solvers. I invite you to see this course (and all writing courses) as important training/practice spaces where you can work on (1) developing your understanding of and perspectives on key contemporary topics in public discourse, and (2) communicating your ideas and arguments to real audiences. A very significant aspect of how you will be evaluated in this course deals with not just your ability to produce a correct final product, but with showing your process and growth as a writer (FYW Program's Core Value 1), grappling with different stakeholder opinions (Core Value 2), comprehending and synthesizing information and formulating your own informed perspective (Core Values 2 and 4), exploring a range of genre conventions and rhetorical situations (Core Value 3) and exercising all of these interrelated literacy skills ethically (Core Value 5) . While Gen AI/LLM tools can produce persuasive human-sounding writing in response to many prompts, these tools encourage users to bypass important processes that are critical to the strengthening of students' writing and cognitive skills. In short, our course is designed to help enhance your **human intelligence** by helping you be a better thinker through developing your own writing skills.

That said, there may be times where we might be engaging with GenAI in our course and doing so from a critical standpoint so that we can assess together what it can—and cannot—do.