GenAI Maker Session: Developing Chatbots for Smarter Teaching: Enhancing Efficiency and Creativity

Learning Objectives

By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Describe the potentials and limitations of custom chatbots in teaching, learning, and administration.
- Develop a chatbot tailored to your teaching context.

What are Custom Chatbots

- Custom Chatbot Demo
- Agents Demo

Activity 1: Finding GPTs

Task: Identify 4 chatbots or GPTs that could be useful in your teaching context.

- Choose **two** that could be integrated into your **teaching**.
- Choose **two** that could support your **day-to-day workflows**.
- Explore various chatbots using OpenAI's GPT store

Activity 2: Try out a Chatbot

Task: Choose one of the linked chatbots and test it.

- What are its strengths in **teaching and learning**?
- What are its **limitations**?

Reflection Questions:

- Could this chatbot support student engagement, feedback, or assessment?
- How would you modify it for better integration into your practice?

Chatbots

- Ai Tutor Pro
- HelpMe UBC

Activity 3: Chatbots for Workflows

Task: Identify a **time-consuming** aspect of your teaching or research practice.

- What do you **find least enjoyable** in your workload?
- Could a chatbot **automate or assist** with this task?

Examples of workflow-enhancing chatbots:

- Chatbots for **grading** and feedback
- Chatbots for **communication** (student Q&A, announcements)
- Chatbots for **analyzing student feedback**

Try out at least one of the Poe chatbots and brainstorm a chatbot idea that could help optimize your workflow.

POE Chatbots

- Course Feedback Bot Link
- Auto-email Generator Link

- Accessible Chatbot Link

Activity 4: Creating a Chatbot

Task: Create a chatbot relevant to your teaching context.

Follow these best practices for text generation prompts:

- Use a second-person **address** (directly instruct the bot).
- Be **clear and specific** (avoid ambiguity).
- Use **square brackets** for specific instructions.
- Leverage **Markdown** for structured outputs.
- Define a **knowledge base** (documents, sources).
- Set an **interaction style** (formal, conversational, student-friendly).

Chatbot Prompt Generator

Instructions: building a chatbot with POE: https://bit.ly/48UqwkZ

Bonus: Experiment with a **different model** to compare results!

Activity 5: Sharing Takeaways

📢 **Task:** Using the Zoom whiteboard (or discussion board), share:

- How you could develop **custom chatbots** for your own teaching practice.
- One key **insight or takeaway** from the workshop.

Resources

Guides & Readings

- OpenAI Guide to Custom GPTs
- Privacy and Academic Integrity Considerations for AI UBC Guideline

Tools & Platforms

- OpenAI GPT Store: https://openai.com/gpts
- Claude AI by Anthropic: https://claude.ai

- AI Tutor pro: Chatbot created by Contact North

Articles

Center for Digital Innovation in Learning. (n.d.). *StuckBot*. Boston College. Retrieved March 3, 2025, from https://cdil.bc.edu/resources/emerging-technologies/engaging-with-ai/chatbots/stuckbot/