Hochschule München University of Applied Sciences

Courses in English
Course Description

Department	13 General and Interdisciplinary Studies
Course title	**"Human-Level AI": Will AI Take Your Job? (DAI)**
Course number	
Hours per week (SWS)	2
Number of ECTS credits	2
Course objective	By the end of the course, students will be able to distinguish and critically compare major scenarios for the future development of AI and work. They will understand central concepts such as “human-level AI,” automation, augmentation, technological unemployment, and socioeconomic disempowerment. Students will learn to separate empirical forecasts from normative claims, assess arguments and evidence under uncertainty, and identify the implications of different AI trajectories for employment, inequality, political power, and the value of work. They will be able to formulate well-reasoned judgments about public policy and their own professional futures.
Prerequisites	None
Recommended reading	- Daniel Susskind, A World Without Work: Technology, Automation, and How We Should Respond (Metropolitan, 2020) - Anca Gheaus & Lisa Herzog, “The Goods of Work (Other Than Money!)” (Journal of Social Philosophy, 2016) - Garrison Lovely, Obsolete: The AI Industry’s Trillion-Dollar Race to Replace Us – and How to Stop It (OR Books, 2026) - Daron Acemoglu & Simon Johnson, Power and Progress (PublicAffairs, 2023) - Aaron Benanav, Automation and the Future of Work (Verso Books, 2020) - Stuart Russell, Human Compatible – AI and the Problem of Control (Viking, 2019) - Kurt Vonnegut, Player Piano (Scribner, 1952) - Jan Kulveit et al., “Gradual Disempowerment” (arXiv 2501.16946, 2025) - Arvind Narayanan & Sayash Kapoor, “AI as Normal Technology” (Knight First Amendment Institute, 2025)
Teaching methods	Empirically informed philosophical lectures; conceptual analysis and reconstruction of arguments; critical discussion of research findings, forecasts, historical comparisons, and case studies; close reading of selected texts; thought experiments and structured comparison of alternative scenarios; short individual and plenary exercises applying the course material to different professions and policy questions.
Assessment methods	Written exam
Language of instruction	English
Name of lecturer	Prof. Dr. Adriano Mannino
Email	tbd
Link	

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Course content

What if AI systems become as capable as humans across many cognitive and physical tasks within your working life? Forecasts of when, or whether, “human-level AI” will arrive range from a few years to never. Views on what this would or should mean range equally widely.
Three scenarios will frame the course. First, AI might turn out to be a relatively normal general-purpose technology, in which case change may be impressive but much slower and more institutionally mediated than rapid-transformation scenarios predict. Second, AI might rapidly replace large portions of human cognitive and physical work, raising urgent questions about jobs, the distribution of income and wealth, and the value of human socioeconomic empowerment. Third, AI might not replace us but instead greatly augment our work. In this scenario, the market value of human labor could rise sharply, since complementary human skills and judgment become unusually scarce. However, such a scenario may still cause serious systemic destabilization: Concentration of power among those who own and control the systems, widening gaps between augmented and non-augmented workers, transitions faster than our institutions can manage, corporate and geopolitical races, and pressures on information environments do not depend on whether jobs are systematically replaced.
Each scenario has very different implications for individual careers and public policy. This course gives students from any discipline the philosophical and empirical tools to critically evaluate the relevant ideas and claims for themselves. We will work through what concepts such as “human-level AI” or “artificial general intelligence” even mean and whether they are well-defined; what current AI systems can and cannot do, and the main attempts to forecast further progress; what economic and technological history can and cannot tell us about the scenarios; who and what is likely to win and lose under each scenario, with consequences for inequality, political power, and our individual working lives; the philosophical questions that persist across the scenarios: what work is for, what it means to do “complementary” work with or alongside AI, whether technological unemployment is necessarily bad or could be a form of liberation; and finally, the more personal question of how to prepare for a world shaped by increasingly capable AI systems.

Remarks