

POL 4419G: AI Governance

Course Info

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Tue 2:30-4:20pm

Course description

The growing presence of AI is turning access and control of information into a strategic objective for governmental, financial and scientific, commercial and public struggles for power. What are the main approaches to the governance of technology? What would global governance of AI look like, what does it involve, and what are its impacts and implications? This course is designed to introduce students to the ways in which societies, organizations, and people engage with, navigate and adapt to technological change. Focusing on specific areas of technological change and in particular on AI, this course will critically explore issues of liberty, legitimacy, authority, democratic deliberation and contestation informed by theories and concepts from Political Theory and Political Philosophy, AI Ethics, Sociology of AI, Global Governance, and Law & Public Policy. Each week combines interdisciplinary theory, critical reflection (oral and written), and global perspectives—ensuring a well-rounded senior-level engagement with some contemporary scholarship related to the ethics of global AI governance.

Evaluation Breakdown

Seminar (Thinklab) Participation: 3x10/ea= 30%

In-class Essays: 3x10/ea= 30%

Workshop Report and Participation: 2x10/ea= 20%

Policy Brief: 20%

Selected Texts

Mark Coeckelbergh, *AI Ethics*. The MIT Press Essential Knowledge, 1st Edition, 2020

Mark, Coeckelbergh. *The Political Philosophy of AI : An Introduction*. Wiley, 2022.

Ansell, C., & Torfing, J. (Eds.). (2022). *Handbook on Theories of Governance*. Edward Elgar Publishing. 2025, from <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800371972>

*In addition to these three books, journal articles will be assigned on a weekly basis; all readings will be available on the course website.

Tentative Weekly Schedule

1. Icebreaker and Introduction to the Course:

- Ansell, C., & Torfing, J. (Eds.). (2022). 'Introduction: Theories of Governance' in Handbook on Theories of Governance. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.
<https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800371972>

2. Political Philosophy of AI: Freedom, Equality, Justice, & Democracy:

- Coeckelbergh, Mark (2022). *The Political Philosophy of AI*, Polity Press, Cambridge, UK, chapters 1-4.

3. Histories of AI and Governance:

- Mark Coeckelbergh, *AI Ethics*. The MIT Press, 2020, chapter 5: The Technology.
- Ali, S. M., et al. (2023). Histories of Artificial Intelligence: A Genealogy of Power. *BJHS Themes*, 8, 1–18. DOI:10.1017/bjt.2023.15, p. 1-8 only.
- Susanna Borrás (2012). “Three Tensions in the Governance Of Science and Technology”. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Governance*. Ed. by David Levi-Faur. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 429–440. DOI:0.1093/oxfordhb/9780199560530.013.0030.

4. AI & Ethics of Global Governance:

- Ole Jacob Sending, Iver B. Neumann. Governance to Governmentality Analyzing NGOs, States, and Power, *International Studies Quarterly*, Volume 50, Issue 3, September 2006, Pages 651–672, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2478.2006.00418.x>
- Madanchian, M., & Taherdoost, H. (2025). Ethical theories, governance models, and strategic frameworks for responsible AI adoption and organizational success. *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence*, 8, 1619029. DOI:10.3389/frai.2025.1619029.
- Taeihagh, A., Ramesh, M. and Howlett, M. (2021), Assessing the regulatory challenges of emerging disruptive technologies. *Regulation & Governance*, 15: 1009-1019. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rego.12392>

5. Critical Approaches to Governing AI:

- Allen, D., Hubbard, S., Lim, W., & others (2025). A roadmap for governing AI: technology governance and power sharing liberalism. *AI & Ethics*, 5, 3355–3377. DOI:10.1007/s43681-024-00635-y.
- Terzis, P. (2024). Law and the political economy of AI production. *International Journal of Law and Information Technology*, 31(4), 302–330. DOI:10.1093/ijlit/eaee001.
- Sartori, L., Bocca, G. Minding the gap(s): public perceptions of AI and socio-technical imaginaries. *AI & Soc* 38, 443–458 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-022-01422-1>

6. AI, Societal Attitudes, and Narratives:

- Tyler Romualdi, Tyler Girard, Mathieu Turgeon, Yannick Dufresne, Takeshi Iida & Tetsuya Matsubayashi (18 Apr 2025): The multidimensional structure of risk: how dread and controllability shape attitudes toward artificial intelligence, *Journal of Risk Research*, DOI:10.1080/13669877.2025.2491089
- Bory, P., Natale, S., & Katzenbach, C. (2024). Strong and weak AI narratives: an analytical framework. *AI & Society*, 40, 2107–2117. DOI:10.1007/s00146-024-02087-8

- Bellary, S., & Marathe, G. (2025). Framing the Invisible: How AI Narratives Shape Strategic Decision Making. *California Management Review*.

7. Intersectional Perspectives on AI & Inclusion:

- Marie-Therese Png (2022) “At the Tensions of South and North: Critical Roles of Global South Stakeholders in AI Governance”, in *Proceedings of ACM FAccT '22*, 12 pp. 2.
- Genevieve Smith & Ishita Rustagi (2024) When Good Algorithms Go Sexist: Why and How to Advance AI Gender Equity, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.
- Farhad, S. Passengers in Flight: AI Governance Capacity in the Global South. *Digit. Soc.* 4, 39 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44206-025-00195-6>

8. AI, Policy, and Society:

- Schiff, D. S. (2024). Framing contestation and public influence on policymakers: evidence from US AI policy discourse. *Policy & Society*, 43(3), 255–288. DOI:10.1093/polsoc/puae007.
- AI counter-governance: <https://www.techpolicy.press/ai-counter-governance-lessons-learned-from-canada-and-paris/>
- Rustam Mirzayev, “International law and AI: Balancing security and digital rights protection” *Int’l Journal of Law* (2024)

9. Generative AI & Emerging Governance Challenges:

- Taeiagh, A. (2025). Governance of Generative AI. *Policy & Society*, 44(1), 1–22. DOI:10.1093/polsoc/puaf001.
- Sofiya Sayankina, Elinor Tsen, Er-Win Tan & Ryan K. L. Ko (21 Oct 2025): Defining the intension and extension of nations’ sovereignty in the age of generative AI, *Territory, Politics, Governance*, DOI: 10.1080/21622671.2025.2568474.
- Badawy, W. Algorithmic sovereignty and democratic resilience: rethinking AI governance in the age of generative AI. *AI Ethics* 5, 4855–4862 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-025-00739-z>.

10. Future Agendas & Policy Directions

- Huw Roberts et al., “Global AI governance: barriers and pathways forward” *International Affairs* (2024).
- Harvard Law Review, “Co Governance and the Future of AI Regulation” (2025).
- Inga Ulnicane, “Governance fix? Power and politics in controversies about governing generative AI” *Policy & Society* (2025).