HC Policy on the use of AI in courses
Approved by HC Faculty Nov. 3, 2023

To post for all (students/instructors) on Honor Code page:

**Policy: Students are not permitted to use AI (such as ChatGPT, PaLM2, Grammarly-Go, etc.) in working on a graded assignment for a class (e.g., written work such as papers or lab reports, problem sets, quizzes, exams), unless explicitly permitted to do so by the instructor of that class.**

Comment: This is not a ban on the use of AI. An instructor may want students to use AI for an assignment, in which case they will make clear that for this assignment AI may be used.

Rationale: AI has beneficial uses that students should be trained in to be competitive in the job market. Some academics are now using AI to help write grant proposals, create assignments, write emails, or do other tasks. Faculty are encouraged to explore how AI can be used in fruitful ways. But students should not use AI as a replacement for developing their own critical thinking and writing skills. To do so undermines the goals of teaching and gives them an unfair advantage over other students. We must distinguish appropriate and inappropriate uses of AI. For example, a scholar who is not fluent in English but must submit a research grant proposal in English might, one may plausibly argue, legitimately make use of AI to translate their proposal to English. However, if this person were taking a course to learn English, it would be inappropriate for them to use AI to complete a graded translation assignment. Doing so would defeat the purpose of taking the course.

Explaining the policy to students: Plagiarism is defined as passing off as one’s own the work done by others: it is intellectual theft, and is prohibited by FAU’s code of academic integrity. Students should agree that it is wrong to pay a PhD $500 to write their essay assignment for them and then turn that essay in for a grade, claiming the work is their own: that is cheating, and so is turning in a paper written by an AI model and passing it off as your own work. In addition, students should be reminded of a primary purpose of our honor code: to maintain an environment of mutual trust and respect between student and teacher, and among students. As teachers we trust students to do their own work, and using unpermitted aid violates that trust. If they are unsure, students should check with their instructors beforehand as to what is permitted in working on an assignment.

**For instructors only:**

Suggested language to incorporate in your syllabus and specific assignments: Because in this class one main objective is to help you develop your [ability to write well] [ability to think critically] [ability to master a body of knowledge and apply that knowledge], you may not use any Artificial Intelligence tools (for example, ChatGPT, Grammarly-Go) to complete assignments unless explicitly authorized to do so by the instructor. Receiving unpermitted aid is cheating and a violation of the Honor Code and can result in your receiving a ‘0’ for the assignment or more severe penalties for repeat offenses. If you have any questions about what is permitted, check with me before you start to work on your assignment.

How to detect cheating: AI detection devices are not foolproof, though some are better than others--originality.ai seems to be one of the better ones. The most prevalent problem with systems of detection is false negatives (where the detector concludes AI was not used, but it was), and this problem is exacerbated by new tools students can purchase that modify what an AI produces to make it look more like the product of a human, and which, because of their cost, can result in a disproportionate impact on students who are less privileged. False positives (where a detector says ‘this was written by AI’ but it was not) are less common. Given the fallibility of detection devices, they must not be relied on as proof of cheating. Still, they can be useful in raising suspicions that lead instructors to investigate further. One strategy for detecting use of AI in writing would be to get a base sample of a student’s writing, produced in class without access to electronic devices. Another strategy would be to bring in a student you suspect of cheating and question them about the content of the material to see if they understand it.

How to prevent cheating: Instructors can have students complete assignments by hand without assistance of electronic devices (i.e. in-class); assignments can be given in stages (outline, draft, revision); assignments can require students to refer to interpersonal exchanges such as what was said in class, which AI could not know about. Instructors can require students to cite pages from copyrighted text, which the AI can’t access. Of course, not all of these will be practical for all instructors and ultimately, we must convince students that taking inappropriate shortcuts will not serve them well in the future.