Teaching and Learning Center
University of Verona

COURSE INFORMATION

AI LITERACY

OVERVIEW

The course is offered in a blended format, with predominantly asynchronous activities, and is open to students from all disciplines at the University of Verona. It provides the basic knowledge needed to understand artificial intelligence (AI) and use AI tools critically and responsibly, particularly for studying and learning. It also addresses the ethical implications of AI and the rules governing its use. No prior computing knowledge is required. The course helps students develop their digital skills.

Contents

Fundamental concepts of AI and generative AI; how tools that generate text and images work at a basic level; their potential, limitations and risks, including inaccurate or biased responses. Criteria for choosing tools and evaluating their outputs; ways to reduce risks. Key principles of the AI Act and University guidelines; protection of personal data, including in requests submitted to AI tools; copyright and academic integrity. Writing clear requests, checking responses and using generative AI to support studying and learning.

AREA

- ☐ Numeracy
- ☒ Literacy
- ☐ Problem solving
- ☐ Civic
- ☒ Digital
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Personal and interpersonal
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Financial

INSTRUCTORS

Course proposer: Prof. Roberto Posenato
Other lecturers: Alessandro Farinelli; Federica Paci; Marco Rospocher; Marco Peruzzi; Matteo Lissandrini; Mila Dalla Preda; Niccolò Marastoni; Roberta Silva; Veronica Paternolli.

SUBJECT MATTER

Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, deep learning, generative AI (GenAI), basic concepts relevant to natural language processing (NLP) and generative models (tokenisation, embeddings, probabilistic generation, an introduction to diffusion models), limitations and risks of AI, categories of tools and minimum criteria for assessing them, mitigation measures and safeguards, the AI Act, University of Verona guidelines, GDPR considerations when writing prompts, copyright, academic integrity, effective prompting, critical assessment of outputs, and using GenAI for studying and learning.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge

Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, deep learning, generative AI, basic concepts relevant to NLP and generative models (tokenisation, embeddings, probabilistic generation, an introduction to diffusion models), limitations and risks of AI, categories of tools and minimum criteria for assessing them, mitigation measures and safeguards, the AI Act, University of Verona guidelines, GDPR considerations when writing prompts, copyright, academic integrity, effective prompting, and critical assessment of outputs.

Skills

1. Define and distinguish between AI, machine learning, deep learning, and generative AI.
2. Describe, at a functional level, the basic concepts relevant to NLP and generative models (tokenisation, embeddings, probabilistic generation, and an introduction to diffusion models).
3. Recognise limitations and risks (hallucinations, context windows, ‘apparent reasoning’) and adopt verification strategies proportionate to the risk.
4. Navigate the range of available tools, distinguishing tool categories and minimum criteria for assessment before adoption (transparency, data, context of use, and risks).
5. Recognise bias and discrimination and understand mitigation measures and safeguards in terms of responsibility.
6. Apply governance principles (the AI Act, University of Verona guidelines, GDPR considerations when writing prompts, copyright, and academic integrity) to student use cases.
7. Write effective prompts and iterate deliberately (prompting patterns and techniques).
8. Critically assess outputs and decide when to use or refrain from using AI in academic work, explaining the reasons for those choices.

TEACHING METHODS

Blended learning: 53 asynchronous videos and optional in-person tutoring sessions.

A blended course combining asynchronous content with in-person tutoring sessions. Divided into three teaching modules.
Asynchronous component: Module 1: 4 lessons; Module 2: 3 lessons; Module 3: 3 lessons. The lessons are delivered as segmented videos (5-6 clips of 15-20 minutes), with downloadable materials and a self-assessment quiz at the end of each video.
In-person tutoring: 2 hours for Modules 1 and 2 and 4 hours for Module 3.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Quiz (one or more). Eligibility for the final assessment: required viewing of 100% of the videos; completion is confirmed by a quiz at the end of each video.

Final assessment: a multiple-choice quiz taken in person in a computer lab, in the language of the course attended.

ECTS CREDITS / HOURS

- ☐ 1 ECTS credit / 6 hours
- ☐ 2 ECTS credits / 12 hours
- ☒ 3 ECTS credits / 18 hours

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mandatory participation	☒ YES	☐ NO
Lessons recorded	☒ YES	☐ NO

Video lessons are recorded and made available on Panopto / Moodle.
Tutoring sessions will not be recorded, as attendance is not compulsory.