Seminar in Advanced Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence — 2026

Instructor: Chat Wacharamanotham (to email, see OLAT) Office hours: https://chatw.ch/h
Course format: Seminar

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar will explore research in Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence. Students will learn about the challenges in developing human-centric, ethical, and responsible artificial intelligence systems, and the design and research methods to address them. Students will engage with both seminal and forefront research articles through role-playing as peer reviewers, hackers, researchers, practitioners, and future archeologists.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. understand ethical considerations and methods for incorporating human perspectives in AI systems and technologies.
2. evaluate the human-centered aspects of AI technologies.
3. explain methods to study HCI in AI-powered systems, formulate sound and valid arguments in written form, and orally prepare and orally present and discuss scientific work

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Students are expected to have prior knowledge in Human-Centered Design through courses, e.g., Human-Computer Interaction, HCI & AI, Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, or CSCW.

WORKLOAD

3 ECTS = ~90 hours of work

SEMESTER PLAN

Seminar is bi-weekly (exceptions below) on Wednesdays 12:15–13:45 at room BIN 1.D.29.

	Topic	Hand-in by 18:00		%
Feb 18	Introduction			
Mar 4	Analytical Reading	Response paper	Mar. 16	–
Mar 18	Guided discussion	Response paper	Mar. 30	10%
Apr 1	Guided discussion			
Apr 15	No class — UZH Spring break	Meta-reflection (mid-course)	Apr. 20	10%
		Discussion starter	Apr. 20	20%
		Response paper*	Apr. 27	10%
Apr 29	Students-led discussion	Moderation (in-class)*		10%
		Response paper*	May 11	
May 13	Students-led discussion	Moderation (in-class)*		
		Meta-reflection (final)	May 31	20%
	Throughout the semester: **Discussion 20% +**			**80%**

* These deliverables depend on teams, same score as above. See details in the Assessments section

ASSESSMENTS
20% Pre-class preparation materials (3 response papers)
30% Discussion starter (20% preparation + 10% in-class moderation)
20% In-class discussion
30% Reflection papers (10% mid-course + 20% final)

Pre-class preparation materials: You will write a response to the assigned reading materials. Each response paper outlines your thoughts on the materials. It should argue at least two points with a total length of 0.5–0.8 pages, plus optional references. The first response paper is a practice run, and you will receive formative feedback without a score. The second and third response papers are assessed.

Discussion starter and moderation: For the last two sessions, you will host a discussion. You will work in teams[1] to select research papers and prepare to initiate and moderate the discussion. You will deliver preparatory materials (paper choices, a moderation plan, a draft of media (e.g., slides) that you will use to facilitate the discussion). You will also be assessed on the effectiveness of your moderation in class.

For each of the last two sessions, the host team will be assessed on their discussion starter. For other students, their response paper will be assessed.

In-class discussion refers to skills in scholarly discourse. This includes critical thinking, argumentation, and effective communication. This aspect will be evaluated throughout the semester by the instructor. By the end of March, each student will receive feedback on aspects that they need to improve, and they have to demonstrate improvements in later sessions.

Reflection papers: Throughout this course, you will write **private reflections** on several methodological and conceptual topics as well as your learning processes. These private reflections are personal, and you do not need to hand them in. They will be input for two meta-reflections that you will hand in for assessment. You will learn about the characteristics of reflection in the first two sessions.

POLICIES
- **Participation and attendance:** Attendance in all sessions from March onward is required.
- **Communication:** Please ask questions that do not contain sensitive information on the OLAT forum "Course Q&A". For questions that can be resolved quickly in a conversation, please visit the office hours (https://chatw.ch/h). If you need to email, use the OLAT "Email instructor" to ensure you provide complete information. We will prioritize answering questions on the forum; emails will be processed later.
- **OLAT Notification:** We expect you to receive notifications from the course OLAT's "Notifications" page. Please click the bell icon and choose "Subscribe". This action will send you emails of each notification. You can adjust email frequency by clicking on your profile icon at the top-right and choosing "System settings".
- **Assignment hand-ins** are on OLAT under the "Hand-in" section. When the feedback is released, it will be in the "Feedback" section, and you will receive a notification on OLAT.
- **Late hand-in:** If you missed the deadline, you may upload your work after the deadline within 12 hours. Please email Chat after you upload. Late hand-in receives a penalty of 20% of the score. After 12 hours, we will receive no hand-in afterward, and you will receive zero score for that work.

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[1] The number of team members will be announced by March 18 (after we are certain of course participants). It will be at least 3 people.

- **Re-grading:** Within one week after you receive the assessment, you may file a written appeal on this page[2]. Your appeal will be processed at the end of the semester, and you will receive the results together with the final grade of the course.
- Work containing **plagiarism** will result in a grade of 1.0. Please read the plagiarism fact sheet[3].
- **Learning accommodations** with respect to disability: see information from the faculty[4]
- **Rules for AI tools:** Students may use any AI tools. However, they are responsible for the work.
- **Citation policy:** If your work refers to papers that do not exist, or cites papers that are not relevant to your argument. You will receive a penalty of 30% of the score of the entire work.
- **Grading scale interpretation:**
    6.00 Excellent
    5.75 – 5.50 Very good
    5.25 – 5.00 Good
    4.75 – 4.50 Satisfactory
    4.25 – 4.00 Sufficient
    3.75 – 3.50 Insufficient
    3.25 – 3.00 Poor
    2.75 – 2.00 Very poor
    1.00 Did not hand in
    This semester is the first version of this course, so we have no statistics about past students' performance.

LEARNING RESOURCES
Reading materials will be made available on OLAT[5].

CHANGE LOG

18.02.26
- First version

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[2] https://uzhwwf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b9Dzs7f5A4J2hTM
[3] https://www.ifi.uzh.ch/dam/jcr:1b564225-e6bd-437c-9e20-a07bca1c4df2/Merkblatt-Plagiate_en.pdf
[4] https://oec.uzh.ch/en/studies/petitions/disability.html
[5] https://lms.uzh.ch/auth/RepositoryEntry/17846829919