

(POP88254) The Politics of Artificial Intelligence (draft)

By Nikhil Dasari, Ph.D. Candidate, Dublin City University

Overview:

Artificial Intelligence is likely to ring in the next revolution cutting across various sectors and will leave a lasting impact on how we understand the state, society, and economy. AI, of late, is being viewed with great caution by states while corporations are basking in the glory of churning out one innovation after another, raising pertinent debates on regulation, ethics, and legal frameworks related to AI technologies. This module will engage with the key concepts of AI, its influence over a few sectors such as national security, warfare, diplomacy, and geopolitics.

Assessments:

- Participation and engagement in the seminars (20%)
- Response Paper (2 Nos) at Week 2 and Week 4 (20%)
 - Ideally a brief paper of 600-800 words drawn from the readings demonstrating engagement and application.
 - Demonstration of application with real-world examples will be appreciated and rewarded.
- Presentation (10%) through Weeks 3 to 5
 - 10 minutes per individual (assuming that it is cohort of 15 students, will begin a week earlier if it is more than 15).
 - The presenter is expected to engage with a key argument, a theoretical framework, or a case study pertaining to the themes of the module.
- Final Essay (50%)
 - The essay is expected to be of 2500 words, excluding bibliography and referencing.
 - You are encouraged to use Chicago style of referencing (footnotes), but you are welcome to use Harvard style (in-text) if you are more comfortable with that.
 - Critical thinking will be rewarded.

- Essays should have a neat structure, with a clear introduction, main body, and a substantive conclusion.
- The date of submission will be announced subsequently.

Course Content

Week 1: AI – Genesis and Key Concepts

We will begin with tracing the genesis of AI, key concepts of AI, in vogue within policy circles, generative AI, machine learning, and so on.

Week 2: Weaponisation of AI

We will investigate how AI is weaponised including autonomous weapon technologies, drone technology, etc. Will debate into the potential misuse of generative AI, for instance in making weapons, including biological and chemical weapons. AI and national security; disinformation and AI.

Week 3: Ethics of AI

We will engage with the key debates on ethics of AI, including human rights, privacy rights, biases, potential for singularity and such concepts, including the argument of risks vs benefits of AI.

Week 4: Regulation of AI

Should the development and application of AI technologies be regulated? And if so, by whom? And how? What are the existing frameworks to deal with the regulatory aspects of AI? We will also examine relations between state and corporations, and lobbying associated with AI related regulations.

Week 5: Geopolitics of AI

This week we investigate how states, corporations, and civil society are competing/cooperating on AI. Will address the possible concerns with technological sovereignty, and global power shifts in the international system.

Readings:

The readings are being finalised and will be released in advance of commencement of teaching.

Academic Integrity:

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