



## **Law 552: Law and the Fundamentals of AI**

**2 units**

**Fall 2024 | Thursdays 10 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.**

**Room: Law 118**

**Instructors: Timothy Fox and Beverly Rich Ingersoll**

**Office:** Zoom/on campus

**Office Hours:** Before and after class and by appointment

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### **Course Description**

The AI Fundamentals course is designed to provide law students with a comprehensive understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), with a particular emphasis on its relevance and applications in the legal domain. This course will explore the foundational concepts of AI, equipping students with the necessary vocabulary and knowledge to comprehend AI's applications and limitations. While the course will focus primarily on generative AI, it will also cover a variety of AI tools and concepts, tracing AI's evolution from its inception to the latest advancements in generative AI. Through this exploration, students will gain insights into how these developments are reshaping the legal landscape, the emerging legal challenges, and the broader societal implications of generative AI. Additionally, the course will offer a glimpse into the future of AI and its potential to augment the legal profession.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Develop a foundational understanding of traditional “classification” AI, modern generative AI, machine learning, deep learning, transformers, and other related technologies that have contributed to the current state of AI.
- Evaluate core AI techniques such as automated decision-making, natural language processing, and generative AI mechanisms to assess their potential ramifications and utilities in legal practice.
- Cultivate a skillset in prompt engineering to enable students to optimize their output when utilizing generative AI systems.
- Apply an understanding of AI technologies to assist and better advise businesses and clients.
- Explore the impact of generative AI on the practice of law and access to justice.

### **Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

- Readings will be provided and assigned throughout the semester. Additional supplementary materials may be recommended to deepen understanding.

### **Description and Assessment of Assignments**

In this course, students will undertake various assignments, tailored to develop a theoretical understanding and practical application of the course materials. This course will provide students with a variety of assignments to enable students to apply the material presented in a format that best matches their optimal learning style.

Assignments (40% - 400 points): Throughout the semester, students will complete four assignments, each valued at 100 points. These will range from in-depth research reports to presentations on AI-related topics.

Final Exam (40% - 400 points): The culmination of this course will be a presentation and associated write-up. Students will be expected to work with generative AI in crafting their final presentation. This endeavor aims not just to enhance the student's adeptness with AI tools but also to offer firsthand experience of AI's capabilities and limitations.

Quizzes (10% - 100 points): Two quizzes will be conducted during the semester, with each worth 50 points. Quizzes will be based on the reading or prior week's lecture. Quizzes will be announced at the start of class. Make sure you attend class or provide notice beforehand if you will miss a class.

Participation (10% - 100 points): Attendance and engagement in class discussions is crucial for learning. Participation will be evaluated based on attendance, contributions to class discussions, and engagement in the course.

Students will be required to register for and have access to a generative AI platform (e.g. ChatGPT, Bard, etc.).

## Grading Breakdown

**Table 1 Grading Breakdown**

Assessment Tool (assignments)	Points	% of Grade
Homework/Assignments	400	40
Quizzes	100	10
Participation	100	10
Project/Final	400	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	1000	100

## Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

Letter grade	Corresponding numerical point range
A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Students may elect for numeric or CR/D/F grading option.

## Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments should be submitted via Brightspace or as otherwise directed for specific assignments. Late submissions will be penalized unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

## Grading Timeline

We aim to return homework and other assignments within two weeks of submission. If we anticipate delays, we will notify you in advance.

## Final Project

The final for this course will consist of an in-person presentation and a take home writing component that will be due at the end of the semester. We will provide more details on the Final Project in the first weeks of the course.

## Use of Generative AI in this course

We expect you to use AI (e.g., ChatGPT and other generative AI tools) in this class. Through this class we will go over how to best use these AI tools. As part of this course, we will provide guidance on how and when to use these tools in this class. However, keep in mind the following before using any generative AI tool:

- Other courses may prohibit the use of generative AI tools. Before using ChatGPT or other generative AI tools in *any* other course, ensure that you have the instructor's permission. Misuse or prohibited use of generative AI in a course will subject you to potential discipline under the school's academic integrity policy.
- We will cover the permitted use of AI tools during the course. Generative AI tools like ChatGPT should not be used in this course outside of the permitted uses discussed.
- If you provide minimum-effort prompts to generative AI, you will get low-quality results. Crafting a well-defined prompt is crucial to derive quality results from AI. We will explore this process in-depth during our session on prompt engineering.
- Proceed with caution when using AI tools and never assume the information provided is accurate or trustworthy. Assume everything provided is incorrect until you verify its accuracy with a trusted source. You are solely accountable for any inaccuracies or oversight stemming from AI generated content.
- AI is a tool, but one that you need to acknowledge using. As part of every assignment where you use generative AI you will provide a detailed account of your AI interaction – from your initial prompt to any refinement steps, and your verification process. This account should be precise enough for replication.
- The use of AI tools requires attribution. You are expected to clearly attribute any material generated by the AI tool used. Failure to attribute your work is a violation of the school's academic integrity policies.

## Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit the recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, compromises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

### Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [osas.usc.edu](http://osas.usc.edu). You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at [osasfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:osasfrontdesk@usc.edu).

### Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services

(though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or [otfp@med.usc.edu](mailto:otfp@med.usc.edu)

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.