Philosophy, Art, and Artificial Intelligence (PHKI – FS26)

Assignments Overview & Details

AI Use in PHKI

Good scientific research requires clearly outlining the process of text creation, as emphasised in our HSLU guidelines on scientific misconduct and plagiarism. (See 'Information and Administration' folder on ILIAS.) Therefore, you are expected to be transparent about your use of AI tools in both assignments. This information must be included in a 'disclaimer' section at the end of each assignment. Specify which tools you used, their purpose, and how you applied each one.

Assignment 1: Digital Projects + Reports (40%)

* due on 25.04.26

Task: Students will create a piece of digital art using an AI tool (e.g., AI image generator, text-to-speech, language model). This could be visual art, music, poetry, or mixed media. They will then write an analytical report analyzing their creation process, the role of AI in their art, and how their work reflects cultural and philosophical themes discussed so far in the course.

Please note that this assignment must be completed in English.

Instructions:

1. **Select AI Tool:** Choose an AI tool suitable for your chosen art form (e.g., image generator, text-to-speech, language model etc.).
2. **Create Artwork**: Use the selected AI tool to create a piece of digital art. This could be visual art, music, poetry, or mixed media.
3. **Write Analytical Report**: Reflect on your creation process, the influence of AI on your artwork, and how your work relates to cultural and philosophical themes discussed in the course. Your report should be detailed and insightful.
4. *Present Artwork: During class, present your digital artwork to your peers. Be prepared to discuss your analytical report and answer questions about your creative process and the themes explored in your artwork.*

Suggestions:

1. **Tools**: Runway, Krea.ai, OPENAI GPT, DALL-E, Mid-Journey, Huggingface
2. **Art Forms**: Visual art (images, digital paintings), Music (generated compositions), Poetry (AI- generated poems), Mixed media (combination of AI-generated and human-created elements)
3. **Themes:** Ethics of AI, Creativity and authorship, Human-machine collaboration, Technological determinism

You will be assessed on:

1. **Creativity**: Originality and innovation of the digital artwork
2. **Integration of AI**: Effective utilization of the AI tool to enhance or create the artwork
3. **Analytical Report**: Depth of analysis in discussing the creation process, the role of AI, and the reflection of philosophical and cultural themes
4. **Presentation**: Clarity and coherence in presenting the artwork.

Please see detailed rubrics below.

Rubric for Digital Artwork:

Criteria	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
Creativity and innovation of the digital artwork (as a whole) (45%)	Exceptionally high level of creative thinking or innovation. Excellent effort to explore new ideas. Ideas are fully developed, reflecting a profound and unique level of originality.	High level of creative thinking or innovation. Strong effort to explore new ideas. Ideas are well-developed, incorporating unique concepts and original thinking.	Satisfactory level of creative thinking or innovation. Adequate effort to explore new ideas. Ideas are mostly well-developed and convey an effort to think outside the box.	Moderate level of creative thinking or innovation. Evidence of an effort to explore original ideas, but these ideas are not adequately developed.	Marginal evidence of creative thinking or innovation. Poor effort to explore new ideas.	No clear evidence of creative thinking or innovation. No clear effort to explore new ideas.
Effective utilization of the AI tool (45%)	Excellent technical execution, showing a very deep understanding of the AI tool. This allows the AI tool to be used in highly innovative ways which drastically enhance the artwork.	Very good technical execution, showing a deep understanding of the AI tool. This allows the AI tool to be used in innovative ways which significantly enhance the artwork.	Adequate technical execution, showing a good understanding of the AI tool. This effective use of the AI tool enhances the artwork to a satisfactory degree.	Fairly poor technical execution, not showing enough understanding of the AI tool. This enhances the artwork somewhat, but there is more potential for this.	Poor technical execution, showing minimal understanding of the AI tool. This does not effectively enhance the artwork.	Technical execution is not measurable.
Powerpoint Presentation of the Artwork (10%)	Exceptionally clear and logical presentation which may greatly enhance the viewer's understanding of the project's topic and intentions. Visual and textual elements are creatively integrated and highly engaging.	Very clear and logical presentation which may allow for the viewer to fully understand the project and all of its intentions. Visual and textual elements are creatively integrated and engaging.	Adequately clear and logical presentation which may allow the viewer to understand the project and its main intentions. Visual and textual elements are well-organized and engaging.	Generally clear and logical presentation. However, it may be difficult for the viewer to understand the project's main intentions. Visual and textual elements are adequately organized but might not be fully engaging.	Somewhat clear presentation. However, it lacks logic / coherence in places, making it difficult for the viewer to understand the project. Visual and textual elements are present but are not well-integrated or engaging.	Unclear presentation which lacks logic / coherence, making it very difficult to understand the project. Visual and textual elements are poorly organized.

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Rubric for Analytical Report:

Criteria	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
*Analysis of **Creative Process** (as a whole)* *(20%)*	Detailed overview and very insightful analysis of creative process. Creative decisions discussed in depth, with strong critical reflection on creative decisions.	Detailed overview and insightful analysis of creative process. Creative decisions discussed in depth, with critical reflection on creative decisions.	Adequate overview and satisfactory analysis of creative process. Adequate discussion of creative decisions, with thoughtful reflection on the creative process.	Moderate overview and analysis of creative process. Creative decisions discussed in moderate depth but lack of thoughtful reflection on the creative process.	Superficial overview of creative process, with some basic analysis. However, it lacks depth.	Almost no detail on and almost no analysis of creative process.
*Analysis of **Role of AI*** *(30%)*	Detailed discussion with clear explanation of how AI tool generated or enhanced artwork. Critical discussion leads to insightful exploration of its impact on the artwork, showing deep understanding of the technology.	Detailed discussion with clear explanation of how AI tool generated or enhanced artwork. Thoughtful discussion allows for insightful exploration of its impact on the artwork.	Sufficient discussion, with clear explanation of how AI tool generated or enhanced artwork. Discussion allows for sufficient exploration of its impact on the artwork.	Role of AI tool is discussed, including how it generated or enhanced artwork. However, discussion lacks adequate detail, only permitting moderate exploration of its impact on the artwork.	The role of the AI tool is only discussed briefly. There is minimal exploration of its impact on the artwork.	The role of the AI tool is not mentioned. There is no meaningful discussion of its impact on the artwork.
*Connection to **Cultural and Philosophical Themes**: **Reflection of Themes** Discussed in the Course* *(50%)*	Makes very insightful connection between the artwork and themes, with strong references to course material and other relevant material. Nuanced examples used to interpret these themes, showing deep understanding of interplay between AI and cultural/philosophical concepts.	Makes strong connection between the artwork and themes, with strong references to course material or class discussions. Detailed examples show significant engagement with these themes and thoughtful consideration of AI's role in expressing them.	Makes adequate connection between the artwork and themes, with some references to course material or class discussions. Shows a good understanding of these themes with clear and relevant examples.	Makes basic connection between the digital art and themes. Shows a general understanding of the themes, with some relevant examples. .	Attempts to show connection between the digital art and themes but does so in an unclear way. Shows a partial understanding of these themes with vague examples.	Shows little or no connection between the digital art and themes. Reflects significant misunderstandings of these themes. Offers few or no examples.

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Assignment 2: Group Videos, AI in Media and Art Forms (60%)

* due 20.06.2026, short discussion last week of class

Objective: Explore how AI is represented in various media and art forms to understand societal perceptions and implications of AI technology.

Please note that this assignment must be completed in English.

Instructions:

1. **Form a Group**: Teams should consist of 2 - 3 members.
2. **Select a Theme**: Choose an <u>overarching theme</u> that ties together your selected media and art forms. Possible themes:
   - AI as a tool of empowerment vs. control
   - Ethical dilemmas posed by developments in AI
   - Evolving relationship between humans and machines
   - Automation and job displacement
   - Surveillance and privacy
   - AI and war
   - Emotional intelligence
   - ???

3. **Research and selection**: Each team member should select at least one piece of media or art to analyze (film, literature, visual art, news articles, documentaries, social media etc.) that reflects the chosen theme. Example selections from various assignments:
   - Film: "Ex Machina" for its exploration of AI autonomy and ethics
   - Literature: "Neuromancer" by William Gibson for its portrayal of AI and cybernetics
   - Visual Art: Generating a video of a deceased grandparent using an old picture an AI, and analyzing its reception

4. **Analysis**: Discuss how each selected piece contributes to understanding societal views on AI at that time. Focus on how these portrayals reflect or challenge current AI ethics, creativity, and human-machine interactions.

5. **Micro-viva:** Week 14 includes a required 5-minute group Micro-Viva (ungraded, formative) to discuss philosophical concepts behind the final project.
   - Deliverable: Micro-viva Prep Sheet due 22.05.26; upload to ILIAS as pdf
     - *Group members:*
     - *Project Title:*
     - *Thesis/Claim that you will be arguing/showing/discussing in your project:*
     - *Main Philosophical Question:*
     - *Key Thinker(s) / Concept(s) used:*
     - *Intended Argument or Insight: (What you hope the viewer learns)*
     - *Next Step: What feedback you'd find most useful in the micro-viva*

6. **Video Presentation**: Prepare a 15 - 25 minute video presentation → 15 mins (max. 20 mins) for a pair, 20 mins (max. 25 mins) for a group of three.
   - Present your findings, analyses, and any creative visual supports.
   - Be sure to make it engaging and informative, and apply what we have covered throughout the course.
   - Deliverable: Group video (and slides/script/notes) due 20.06.2026; upload to ILIAS

You will be assessed on:

1. **Thoroughness of Research:** Depth and breadth of media/art forms analyzed

o *How extensively does the group explore their chosen media/art forms?*

2. **Analysis**: Clarity and depth in discussing what these portrayals reveal about society's perspectives on AI.

- *Are the insights and discussions nuanced and reflective of broader societal contexts?*

3. **Presentation Skills**: Ability to effectively convey your analysis

- *Is the information well-organized and compellingly presented?*

4. **Team Collaboration**: Cohesiveness and collaboration within the group + Ability to engage the class in meaningful discussion

- *How effectively did the group collaborate to integrate their findings?*
- *Did the presentation stimulate thougtful discussion and feedback?*

Please see detailed rubric below.

Note: If you refer to a specific news article, journal article etc., please cite this source on on a slide or upload a document with these sources.

Rubric (This rubric continues onto next page.)

Criteria (equal weighting)	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
Thoroughness of Research	Scope: Explores diverse range of at least two / three* pieces of media / art - both mainstream and lesser-known works, presenting a holistic understanding of theme. These well-chosen pieces cover a variety of perspectives related to theme. Depth: Delves exhaustively into each piece.	Scope: Explores diverse range of at two / three* pieces of media / art, with well-chosen examples that cover a variety of perspectives related to theme. Depth: Delves deeply into each piece.	Scope: Explores at least two / three* pieces of media / art. Depth: Adequate depth of research, covering each piece sufficiently so that the viewer has enough information to understand the common theme.	Scope: May explore fewer than two / three* pieces of media / art. Depth: Insufficient depth of research with piece(s) failing to provide the viewer with enough information to fully understand the common theme.	Scope: Explores fewer than two / three* pieces of media / art. Depth: Minimal depth of research with piece(s) failing to provide the viewer with enough information to understand the common theme.	Scope: Little to no exploration of pieces of media/art. Depth: Complete lack of depth and breadth providing insufficient information for the viewer to grasp the common theme in any way.
Analysis *regarding what the media / art forms reveal about society's perspectives on AI.*	Nuanced and insightful analysis. Sophisticated discussions skilfully integrate art / media portrayals with broader ethical, cultural, and societal contexts / issues and views on AI. Complex analysis indicates deep understanding of theme.	Nuanced and thoughtful analysis. Well-developed discussions effectively link art / media portrayals to broader ethical, cultural, and societal contexts / issues and views on AI. Analysis indicates strong understanding of theme.	Straightforward analysis. Logical discussions connect art / media portrayals to broader ethical, cultural, and societal contexts / issues and views on AI. Analysis indicates good understanding of theme.	Somewhat superficial or unclear analysis. Overly simple discussion makes some general connections between art / media portrayals and some broader ethical, cultural and societal contexts / issues and views on AI. Analysis indicates moderate understanding of theme.	Shallow and unclear analysis. Discussion is too vague, making very few general connections between art / media portrayals and any broader ethical, cultural and societal contexts / issues and views on AI. Analysis indicates poor understanding of theme.	Minimal or absent analysis. Discussion lacks coherence and relevance and does not make any connections between art / media portrayals and any broader ethical, cultural and societal contexts / issues and views on AI. Analysis indicates a complete lack of understanding of theme.

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Presentation Skills	Recorded video is exceptionally well-organised with a clear and coherent structure. Delivery is confident and professional, with excellent pacing. Creative visual aids and multimedia elements are seamlessly integrated to enhance analysis and maintain the viewer's attention throughout. Thoughtful discussion and reflection are effectively stimulated throughout.	Recorded video presentation is well-organised with a clear and coherent structure. Delivery is confident, with very good pacing. Visual aids and multimedia elements are effectively integrated to support analysis and mostly maintain the viewer's attention. Thoughtful discussion and reflection are stimulated.	Recorded video presentation is organized with a clear structure. Delivery is generally confident, with appropriate pacing. Visual aids are generally used effectively to clarify and support analysis and capture the viewer's attention, though they may not always be creatively integrated. Thoughtful discussion is stimulated.	Recorded video presentation has a basic structure, but this structure is unclear or lacks clarity in places. Delivery is not engaging and pacing is often inconsistent. Visual aids are present but are not always effectively used to support analysis or engage the viewer. Video presentation does not stimulate much thoughtful discussion.	Recorded video presentation is poorly organized with an unclear structure. Delivery is poor, with inconsistent pacing. Visual aids are limited and are ineffectively used to support points, with the video struggling to engage the viewer. Video presentation does not stimulate thoughtful discussion.	Recorded video presentation is completely disorganized with an unclear structure which lacks any clarity. Delivery and pacing are very poor. Visual aids may be absent and are ineffective if used. The video fails to engage the viewer and does not stimulate discussion.
Team Collaboration	Video reflects thorough collaboration and a unified approach, with each member contributing equally and significantly. The presentation flows very well.	Video reflects cohesive group, with clear, equal and well-coordinated contributions from each member. The presentation flows well.	Video reflects effective collaboration, with each member generally contributing equally. Contributions are generally well-coordinated. The presentation mainly flows well.	Video reflects collaboration, though all members may not contribute equally. Contributions are somewhat coordinated, but the presentation seems disjointed / does not flow well.	Video reflects limited collaboration, with members contributing unequally or not at all. Contributions are poorly coordinated, meaning the presentation appears very fragmented.	Video reflects very poor collaboration with members contributing unequally or not at all. Contributions are not coordinated and lack coherence, meaning the presentation is very difficult to follow.

*Groups with two members should explore at least two media / art forms, while groups with three members should explore at least three media / art forms