# Advanced Topics in the Foundations of AI (Summer 2025): Formalities

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Welcome to the course *Advanced Topics in the Foundations of AI*! This document collects the relevant organizational information.

**Contact**    The instructor of the seminar is me, Levin Hornischer (you can email me via `Levin.Hornischer@lmu.de`). During the semester, we meet on:

- Wednesdays, from 10:15 to 11:45 in room 028 (Ludwigstr. 31).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office hours are on Thursdays, 14–16 by appointment via email.

**Lecture material**    The materials for the course are provided on the website:

   `https://levinhornischer.github.io/FoundAI/`

**Assessment**    If you take the course for credits (9 ECTS-points), you need to write a term paper whose grade will be your final grade for the course. The formalities are as follows.

- Topic: I will suggest some topics further into the course. But you can also suggest topics of your own: then get in contact with me so I can approve them. In any case, the topic should be related to the contents of the course. A paradigmatic topic would be to take a philosophical theory which makes some prediction about AI and test it in an implementation. But coding is not required for the course, so a purely theoretical paper is perfectly fine, too.

- Word limit: 15-20 pages; max. 6000 words.

- Passing grades: 1.0, 1.3, 1.7, 2.0, 2.3, 2.7, 3.0, 3.3 , 3.7, 4.0.

- Grading criteria: For an excellent grade, your paper should excel in the following criteria.

    - *Research question, motivation, and structure*: You have a clearly articulated question and main claim, both of which have to be presented

in the introduction; together with the motivation/relevance of the question and the context in which it occurs. The essay is clearly and naturally structured in sections to answer the posed question.

– *Definition of concepts*: All required concepts are well explained, defined, and referenced.

– *Literature coverage*: You show that you are familiar with the relevant literature (refer to a substantial amount of publications that are not mentioned in the syllabus of the seminar). You show that you are able to reconstruct arguments from the relevant literature in a concise and accurate way.

– *Own argument and objections*: You develop an independent and original argument supporting your main claim (not just reconstruct one from the literature). The argumentative structure is made explicit (by an overview in the introduction and by guiding the reader in the sections of the paper). You anticipate and discuss possible objections to your own arguments. The argument clearly state the assumptions (premises) and is logically correct.

– *Language and formatting*: The essay is typeset in an appealing format (e.g., 12pt, Times New Roman, 1.5 spacing, 3 cm margins), citations are according to academic standards and the references are presented in an detailed and consistent manner (e.g. APA). The essay is written in clear and easy to understand language (as e.g. described in style books). There is no inappropriate language. Spelling and punctuation are largely correct.[1] (This is judged according to the standard of a good non-native speaker of English.)

– And, of course, you should not plagiarize.

• Deadlines (see here):

– Registration period for exams and term papers: 30.06. 2025 – 11.07. 2025. (This registration is necessary for writing a term paper and getting the grade/credits.)

– Deadline for the submission of term papers: 19.09.2025.[2]

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[1]In case you are dyslexic, this of course does not apply—please let me know if this is the case (of course, I will treat this confidentially).

[2]This deadline is fixed and I cannot change it. For extensions, you need to contact the examination office.

- Submission: As PDF to me via email.[3]

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[3]These assessment formalities closely follow the suggestions of Alexander Reutlinger.