The AI Awakening: Implications for the Economy and Society

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course explores how the advances in artificial intelligence can and will transform our economy and society in the near future.

You will hear insights from esteemed AI researchers and industry leaders in technology, economics, and business. The curriculum addresses the technological underpinnings of Generative AI, its profound implications for businesses and the broader economy, and the potential risks associated with AI-driven transformations in the workforce. By the end of this course, you will be equipped with the foresight necessary to navigate the transformative landscape of AI.

Notable guest speakers include Eric Schmidt (former CEO of Google), Laura Tyson (esteemed Berkeley professor and former Director of the National Economic Council), Bindu Reddy (CEO and Co-Founder - Abacus.AI), Alex Wang (Founder of Scale AI), Mira Murati (CTO of OpenAI), Jack Clark (Co-founder of Anthropic), and Mustafa Suleyman (Founder of Inflection.AI). They originally joined a conversation at Stanford University with Erik Brynjolfsson and Sebastian Thrun in Spring 2023, and we believe that their insights will be as valuable to your understanding as they were to the Stanford community.

Special thanks to James da Costa for his work on the development of this course.

You Will Learn To:

- Understand recent technological progress leading to Generative AI today.
- Grasp the technological basics of Generative AI.
- Understand the pivotal role of data and human involvement in Generative AI model development.
- Explore how businesses utilize Generative AI.
- Explore business opportunities enabled by Generative AI.
- Analyze the impact of AI and Generative AI on the workforce, including employment and skill-based training.
- Imagine and discuss potential future scenarios in a world with advanced AI and Generative AI.
- Identify potential risks associated with Generative AI for society.

Important Note: This content originates from Stanford University's graduate course, "AI Awakening: Implications for the Economy and Society", which was taught during the Spring Quarter of 2023. While the recording quality may not match studio standards, the insights remain highly valuable. We hope you'll enjoy this exclusive opportunity to engage with authentic course materials and conversations originally available only for Stanford graduate students, all in the setting of a real Stanford classroom.

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Instructor

Erik Brynjolfsson

>Jerry Yang and Akiko Yamazaki Professor and Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for
>Human-Centered AI (HAI)
>Director of the Stanford Digital Economy Lab.

Course Topics

➤ **Week 1 – The Technology behind Generative AI**

In this module, we will delve into the technological basics of generative AI, explore the recent progress shaping its current capabilities, examine the roles played by data and human input in model development, and experience live demos of Generative AI solutions.

In this module you will hear from:

- Erik Brynjolfsson: Welcome and Introduction
- Eric Schmidt, *Former CEO of Google*: How Fast Things are Moving
- Jack Clark, *Co-Founder of Anthropic*: Recent Progress in Artificial Intelligence
- Mira Murati, *CTO of OpenAI*: Generative Models
- Alexandr Wang, *Founder of Scale AI*: Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback

Number of Assessments: 1

Approximate video length in module: 45 minutes
Estimated time to complete all exercises in module: 15 minutes
Estimated reading time: 40 minutes

➤ **Week 2 – The Implications of Generative AI for Business and the Economy**

In this module, we will discuss the Generative AI startup landscape, and the approaches and relevance of artificial intelligence in an enterprise context. We will also consider the implications of Generative AI for the economy by evaluating lessons learned from past automation experiences and contemplating the broader implications of AI and Generative AI on the workforce, including their potential effects on employment dynamics and skill-based training.

In this module you will hear from:
- Bindu Reddy, *CEO and Co-Founder of Abacus.AI*: Implications for Business
- Laura Tyson, *esteemed Berkeley professor and former Director of the National Economic Council*: Implications for Economy

Number of Assessments: 1

Approximate video length in module: 40 minutes
Estimated time to complete all exercises in module: 15 minutes
Estimated reading time: 15 minutes

➤ **Week 3 – The Risks of Generative AI and a World Without Work**

In this module, our focus will be to examine the potential risks associated with Generative AI for society, while simultaneously delving into the benefits it could bring into the world. We will consider a future where work may undergo significant transformation or even become obsolete.

In this module you will hear from:
- Mustafa Suleyman, *Founder of Inflection.AI*: The Risks of Generative AI for Society
- Eric Schmidt, *Former CEO of Google*: Gen AI Capabilities and the Future

Number of Assessments: 1

Approximate video length in module: 32 minutes
Estimated time to complete all exercises in module: 15 minutes
Estimated reading time: 15 minutes

Coursework

This course contains a combination of activities such as video, reading materials, multiple-choice, and reflection questions.

Course Requirements

All videos and learning activities must be completed. Reading materials are an optional part of the course and they are not required for the assessments.

Assessments

Assessments are in the form of multiple-choice questions and reflection questions, and they can be found in Modules 2-4. In order to pass the course and receive your certificate, you must achieve a score of 80% or higher. You may take the assessments more than once.

Course Materials

All course materials are provided within the course learning platform. These include videos and assessments. Reading materials are an optional part of the course and they might be presented as links to external web pages.

This course features real-world examples to provide the learner with relevant examples of the concepts. Case studies and examples involving specific persons or companies do not imply any affiliation of those persons or companies with Stanford, nor do they imply Stanford's endorsement of those persons or companies or their actions.

Online Conduct and Honor Code

We take academic integrity and misconduct very seriously. Please refer to the SCPD Terms of Service, which includes information on our Honor Code and Rules for Online Conduct. Failure to comply with these policies may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the course.