# Sample Syllabus Template: "Utilizing AI Across Business Disciplines with Ethical Foundations"

Below is a customizable sample syllabus template for a graduate-level course at Mount Mercy University (or adaptable for St. Ambrose University). This integrates the business disciplines we discussed, the mandatory AI Ethics in Business module, and the expanded AI Ethics in Faith Contexts module to align with Mount Mercy's Catholic heritage and Sisters of Mercy values (e.g., compassion, justice, hospitality). The course is designed as a 3-credit, 14-week hybrid format (e.g., weekly 2-hour in-person sessions plus online modules), suitable for MBA, Strategic Leadership, or a new AI-focused certificate program.

The template emphasizes practical AI applications, ethical discernment, and faith integration, drawing from Vatican guidelines (e.g., "Antiqua et Nova" and Rome Call for AI Ethics). It includes experiential learning, guest speakers, and ties to regional Iowa industries (e.g., agriculture, manufacturing). Faculty can adapt it for specific offerings, such as piloting in an existing Management course.

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# Course Syllabus

## Course Information

- **Course Title**: Utilizing AI Across Business Disciplines with Ethical Foundations
- **Course Number**: BUS 6XX (Graduate Level)
- **Credits**: 3
- **Semester/Year**: Spring 2027
- **Instructor**: [Your Name], AI Strategist and Enterprise Architect (or RS/Business Faculty)
- **Contact Information**: Email: [email@mountmercy.edu (mailto:email@mountmercy.edu)]; Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4 PM (virtual/in-person)
- **Meeting Time/Location**: Wednesdays 6-8 PM, Hybrid (Zoom link provided; in-person in Basile Hall Room 101)
- **Prerequisites**: Graduate standing or permission; basic computer literacy (no coding required, but familiarity with tools like Microsoft Office helpful)
- **Required Texts/Materials**:
  - "Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans" by Melanie Mitchell (for AI basics).
  - Vatican documents: "Antiqua et Nova" (free PDF) and "Rome Call for AI Ethics" (free online).
  - Access to free AI tools: ChatGPT, Google Bard, Microsoft Copilot.
  - Optional: "AI and the Future of Work" by Darrell M. West.
- **Course Platform**: Brightspace (for assignments, discussions, readings).

# Course Description

This course explores AI's transformative role in business disciplines, emphasizing ethical integration and faith-based discernment. Students will learn to apply AI tools responsibly across areas like finance, marketing, and management, while addressing ethical risks through Catholic social teaching (CST) and Mercy values. The curriculum bridges technical skills with spiritual reflection, preparing leaders for AI-driven economies in Iowa's context (e.g., agribusiness, healthcare).

# Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Apply AI tools to enhance decision-making in key business disciplines.
2. Evaluate AI's ethical implications using secular and faith-based frameworks (e.g., bias mitigation, human dignity).
3. Develop strategies for AI adoption in organizations, aligned with justice and compassion.
4. Critically reflect on AI's societal impacts through a Mercy lens.
5. Create AI-integrated business projects with ethical safeguards.

# Course Policies

- **Attendance/Participation**: 80% attendance required; active engagement in discussions (10% of grade). Hybrid flexibility for working professionals.
- **Late Work**: 10% deduction per day; extensions for extenuating circumstances.
- **Academic Integrity**: Plagiarism (including AI-generated content without citation) results in failure. Use AI tools ethically, as per course guidelines.
- **Accommodations**: Contact Accessibility Services for ADA needs.
- **Faith Integration**: Discussions respect diverse beliefs but center Catholic perspectives; optional ties to campus ministry.
- **Technology Requirements**: Reliable internet; laptop for in-class AI demos.

# Grading Scale

- A: 93-100%
- A-: 90-92%
- B+: 87-89%
- B: 83-86%
- B-: 80-82%
- C+: 77-79%
- C: 73-76%
- Below 73%: Failing (graduate standards)

## Assessments and Grading Breakdown

| Assessment | Description | Weight | Due Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Participation & Reflections** | Weekly discussions (in-person/online) and faith-integrated journals (e.g., 1-page on AI ethics). Use rubric for depth/engagement. | 20% | Ongoing |
| **Module Quizzes** | Short online quizzes on AI applications and ethics (e.g., multiple-choice on Vatican principles). | 15% | Weeks 3, 7, 11 |
| **Group Projects** | Discipline-specific AI simulations (e.g., AI marketing campaign). Include ethical audit. | 25% | Week 8 (midterm) |
| **Capstone Project** | Individual or team: AI business plan with faith-ethics charter (e.g., "Mercy AI Initiative" for a local firm). Presentation included. | 30% | Week 14 |
| **Final Exam** | Comprehensive: Case studies applying AI across disciplines with ethical analysis. | 10% | Week 15 |

*Note*: All assessments incorporate rubrics (e.g., from previous details: ethical depth, faith ties).

## Course Schedule

The schedule is modular for flexibility. Weeks 1-2 focus on ethics as foundational; subsequent weeks cover business disciplines with embedded ethical checkpoints. Adjust for holidays (e.g., Easter).

| Week | Topic/Module | Readings/Activities | Assignments Due |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Introduction to AI & Ethics in Faith Contexts (Unit 1-2) | Vatican "Antiqua et Nova" excerpts; AI demo (e.g., ChatGPT limits). Discussion: Human intelligence vs. AI. | Journal: Personal AI reflection. |
| 2 | AI Ethics in Business & Faith Risks/Potentials (Unit 3-4) | Rome Call document; Case: AI bias in hiring. Guest: Campus ministry on mercy in tech. | Quiz 1; Draft "Mercy AI Charter." |
| 3 | Accounting & Finance with AI | Mitchell Ch. 5; Hands-on: AI fraud detection (IBM Watson). Ethical tie: Transparency in financial AI. | Group sim: AI trading bot. |

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| 4 | Marketing & Management with AI | West Ch. 3; Project: AI sentiment analysis (Google Analytics). Faith reflection: Consumer dignity. | Journal on AI in teams. |
| 5 | Human Resources & Economics with AI | Readings on Google's People Analytics; Activity: AI resume screening with bias audit. | Midterm project proposal. |
| 6 | International Business & Supply Chain with AI | Case: Alibaba logistics; Simulation: SAP AI for chains. Ethical: Global justice in AI. | Discussion post. |
| 7 | Sport Management & Organizational Leadership with AI | MLB AI scouting case; Role-play: AI leadership coaching. Faith: Ethical governance. | Quiz 2. |
| 8 | Midterm Review & Group Projects | Present discipline projects; Peer feedback with ethics rubric. | Group Project due. |
| 9 | Expansion Disciplines: Entrepreneurship & Operations | Tools: IdeaBuddy for startups; Siemens sim for ops. Reflection: AI innovation with stewardship. | Journal. |
| 10 | Expansion: MIS/IT Management & Hospitality | Lab: Azure AI dashboard; Case: Hilton AI concierge. Ethical: Cybersecurity & privacy. | Discussion. |
| 11 | Expansion: Real Estate & Integration Workshop | Zillow AI case; Workshop: Cross-discipline AI strategies. Faith tie: Societal impacts. | Quiz 3. |
| 12 | AI in Faith-Based Contexts (Review & Applications) | Tie business to RS courses (e.g., AI in Bible study). Guest: UIowa/ISU AI expert. | Capstone draft. |
| 13 | Emerging Trends & Regional Applications | Iowa focus: AI in ag/manufacturing. Debate: Future of work per Pope Francis. | Final reflections. |
| 14 | Capstone Presentations & Course Wrap-Up | Present AI plans; Feedback. Closing prayer/reflection on mercy in AI. | Capstone due. |
| 15 | Final Exam Week | Online exam; Optional portfolio submission. | Final Exam. |

*Notes*:

- **Guest Speakers**: Weeks 2, 7, 12 (e.g., from Principal Financial or Sisters of Mercy).

- **Service Component**: Optional extra credit: Apply AI to mercy project (e.g., data analysis for local nonprofit).
- **Adaptations**: For shorter terms, condense to 10 weeks by combining expansion modules. For RS integration, add biblical case studies (e.g., AI timelines in Old Testament).

## Additional Resources

- **University Support**: Library AI guides; IT help for tools.
- **Inspiration from Nearby Programs**: Benchmark against University of Iowa's Graduate Certificate in AI/ML and Iowa State's MS in AI (e.g., ethics courses like AI 2020).
- **Policy on AI Use in Course**: Students may use AI for brainstorming but must cite (e.g., "Generated with ChatGPT") and critically evaluate outputs.

This syllabus promotes a balanced, faith-grounded approach to AI education .