

PHI4005

Ethics for Artificial Intelligence

Course Outline

2025-2026

Pre-requisite(s)	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	N/A
Prepared by	Hala Own
Approved by	Jennifer Lexmond, Chair, ICT - Applications & Programming
Approval date	Tuesday, July 8, 2025
Normative hours	56.00
Grading system	A+ Through F

Applicable Program(s)	Level	Core/Elective
1535X01FWO - AI Software Development	1	Core
1535X03FWO - AI Software Development	1	Core

Land Acknowledgement

Algonquin College campuses in Ottawa, Perth and Pembroke are located on the traditional unceded, and unsurrendered territory of the Anishinàbe Algonquin People. The Algonquin People have inhabited and cared for these lands since time immemorial. We take this time to express our gratitude and respect to them and to the land for all that it has provided and will continue to provide.

As a post-secondary institution, we acknowledge the harms done to Indigenous Peoples and are committed to learning from the past. We pledge to promote healing and resilience as we move forward in partnership with the Algonquin Nations, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples in a spirit of reconciliation.

While we recognize that territorial acknowledgements are only one step in cultivating greater respect and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, we commit to accompanying these words with actions. We are dedicated to building a future and community that is better for all.

We pledge to continue exploring and making meaningful contributions to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

Learn more about the College's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/tri>

Course Description

AI, in its various forms, presents a risk to society from a moral and legal standpoint, threatening traditional views of topics such as accountability, fairness and privacy. Students examine ethical concepts and principles, compare a variety of ethical decision-making models and utilize these principles and models to make ethically sound decisions in a variety of contexts. Students examine the ethical perspectives of AI and develop the ability to access the type and degree of ethical risks posed by various types of AI.

Vocational Learning Outcomes

This course provides the opportunity for you to achieve the following outcomes:

1535X01FWO - AI Software Development

VLO 3 Prepare and communicate analysis, reports and recommendations, in a variety of formats, for various audiences, stakeholders and purposes. (T, A)

- VLO 4** Conduct software development and deployment in an ethical manner that ensures data integrity, privacy, confidentiality, impartiality, transparency, equal access and no data bias. (T, A)
- VLO 5** Complete all work in compliance with laws, regulations, data governance, professional ethics and industry standards. (T, A)
- VLO 7** Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship. (T, A)

1535X03FWO - AI Software Development

- VLO 3** Prepare and communicate analysis, reports and recommendations, in a variety of formats, for various audiences, stakeholders and purposes. (T, A)
- VLO 4** Conduct software development and deployment in an ethical manner that ensures data integrity, privacy, confidentiality, impartiality, transparency, equal access and no data bias. (T, A)
- VLO 5** Complete all work in compliance with laws, regulations, data governance, professional ethics and industry standards. (T, A)
- VLO 7** Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship. (T, A)

Assessment Levels —T: Taught A: Assessed CP: Culminating Performance

Course Learning Outcomes / Elements of Performance

When you have earned credit for this course, you will have demonstrated the ability to:

- 1. Discuss how ethical considerations relating to AI have evolved over time.**
 - Discuss key concepts in AI
 - Explain the definition of responsible AI
 - Discuss the ethical consideration of AI on society
 - Describe the future of AI in terms of potential benefits and risks
- 2. Explain ethical theories, principles and practices in relation to AI systems.**
 - Discuss fundamental ethical principles
 - Identify challenges for Socially-Beneficial Artificial Intelligence
 - Explain ethical concerns raised by large-scale deployment of AI applications
 - Discuss best practice guides to building ethical AI
- 3. Use ethically based decision-making skills to address ethical issues in AI software development.**
 - Discuss the eight principles of Ethical AI
 - Analyze the moral problems raised by various AI applications
 - Identify the trust concern for various AI application
 - Choose a use case and address the ethical issues related to it
- 4. Analyze and interpret a code of ethics for a business or organization.**
 - Search for the AI Global governs framework
 - Analyze the difference between Assessment List for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (ALTAI) for self-assessment and Singapore’s Approach to AI Governance
 - Define preference modeling frameworks
 - Assess Canada Algorithmic Impact Assessment Tool (AIA)
- 5. Explain the privacy implications in relation to AI software development.**
 - Explore privacy risks and principles in relation to AI software
 - Discuss the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA), Expectation of Privacy, and Surveillance Technologies
 - Explain different protecting privacy techniques
- 6. Protect against data bias in design and implementation.**
 - Identify the different source of bias in data collection and design
 - Explore data bias tools to detect and mitigate bias in data
 - Categorize the different machine learning models according to interpretability and explainability
 - Discuss different algorithm for bias mitigation in AI design and implementation

7. Enforce data integrity principles and requirements during design and implementation.

- Discuss the guardrail to build trust in AI
- Evaluate fairness in model outcome
- Propose a simple AI governance framework
- Identify how to track the data and model drift after production

Learning Resources

Required Textbook:

Resources will be provided on Brightspace

Hardware and Software:

Required software and hardware will be Available on Brightspace.

Learning Activities

- Class discussions
- Group presentation
- Assignments
- Quizzes
- Project

Pre-defined Evaluation / Earning Credit

The following list provides evidence of this course's learning achievements and the outcomes they validate:

Assignment(s) (20%)

Validates Outcomes: CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 4, CLO 5, CLO 6

Participation (15%)

Validates Outcomes: CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 5, CLO 6

Team Project (20%)

Validates Outcomes: CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 4, CLO 5, CLO 6, CLO 7

Quiz(zes) (20%)

Validates Outcomes: CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 4, CLO 5, CLO 6, CLO 7

Presentation(s) (15%)

Validates Outcomes: CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 5, CLO 6

Discussion(s) (10%)

Validates Outcomes: CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 4, CLO 6

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

Students who wish to apply for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) need to demonstrate competency at a post-secondary level in all outlined course learning outcomes. Evidence of learning achievement for PLAR candidates includes:

- Portfolio
- Performance Test

Course Related Information

Please refer to the Course Section Information (CSI) / weekly schedule for specific course-related information as provided by your professor.

Program Information

Department Information

STUDENT ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Each student is responsible for:

- Knowing the due dates for marked out-of-class assignments.
- Attending all classes and knowing the dates of in-class marked assignments and exercises.
- Maintaining a folder of all work done in the course during the semester for validation claims in cases of disagreement with faculty.
- Keeping both paper and electronic copies of all assignments, marked and unmarked, in case papers are lost or go missing.
- Regularly checking both Brightspace announcements as well as one's Algonquin e-mail account for important messages from both professors and college administration.
- Participating in on-line and classroom exercises and activities as required.
- Retaining course outlines for possible future use to support applications for transfer of credit to other educational institutions.

Department Grading Policy - For all courses that have both a theory and practical (lab) component, students must have a grade of at least 50% (or "D-") on both the theory component as well as in the practical (i.e. lab) component in order to achieve a passing grade in the course. i.e. Even if your combined grade exceeds 50% for the entire course, if you fail either the theory component or the practical component, you will not achieve a passing grade in the course.

Lab/Practical Assessment Demonstration "Demo" Requirements - Certain courses require students to demo their work after it has been submitted. These will be scheduled by the professor and involve 1-2 rudimentary questions to assure the professor that the work submitted by the student is their own. Demos are not graded items - the work submitted is graded. However, where demos are required, if a student does not demo their work or if the professor deems the answers to the questions unsatisfactory, the work will not be graded (i.e. grade of 0 on the lab or practical assessment).

Department Academic Dishonesty Policy - Academic Integrity is very important to all of our faculty and administrative staff and as such, measures have been put into place to detect all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism of code. If plagiarism is detected by a professor, the incident will be reported and investigated. If the findings of the investigation are that a student has submitted plagiarized work as their own, they will be subject to the following policy:

1. The first offence will result in the plagiarized assessment being assigned a grade of 0.
2. The second offence will result in the assignment of a grade of F for the course.
3. The third offence will result in removal of a student from the program of study.

Harassment/Discrimination/Violence will not be tolerated. Any form of harassment (sexual, racial, gender or disability-related), discrimination (direct or indirect), or violence, whether involving a professor and a student or amongst students, will not be tolerated on the college premises. Action taken will start with a formal warning and proceed to the full disciplinary actions as outlined in Algonquin College Policies - HR22 and SA07.

Harassment means one or a series of vexatious comment(s) (whether done verbally or through electronic means), or conduct related to one or more of the prohibited grounds that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome/unwanted, offensive, intimidating, derogatory or hostile. This may include, but is not limited to: gestures, remarks, jokes, taunting, innuendo, display of offensive materials, offensive graffiti, threats, verbal or physical assault, stalking, slurs, shunning or exclusion related to the prohibited grounds.

For further information, a copy of the official policy statement can be obtained from the Student Association.

Violation of the Copyright Act

General – The Copyright Act makes it an offence to reproduce or distribute, in whatever format, any part of a publication without the prior written permission of the publisher. For complete details, see the Government of Canada website at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-42> . Make sure you give it due consideration, before deciding not to purchase a textbook or material required for your course.

Software Piracy - The Copyright Act has been updated to include software products. Be sure to carefully read the licensing agreement of any product you purchase or download, and understand the terms and conditions covering its use, installation and distribution (where applicable). Any infringement of licensing agreement makes you liable under the law.

Disruptive Behaviour is any conduct, or threatened conduct, that is disruptive to the learning process or that interferes with the well being of other members of the College community. It will not be tolerated. Members of the College community, both students and staff, have the right to learn and work in a secure and productive environment. The College will make every effort to protect that right. Incidents of disruptive behaviour must be reported in writing to the departmental Chair as quickly as possible. The Chair will hold a hearing to review available information and determine any sanctions that will be imposed. Disciplinary hearings can result in penalties ranging from a written warning to expulsion.

For further details, consult the Algonquin College Policies AA32, SA07 and IT01 in your Instaguide.

College Related Information

Algonquin College's policies have been developed to ensure the health, safety and security of all students, faculty and staff, and the proper and fair operation of the College as an academic institution and employer. Please refer to the Algonquin College Policies website for the most current policy information available at <http://www.algonquincollege.com/policies/>.

Students are especially encouraged to be aware of the following College expectations

Academic Integrity

Algonquin College is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity, and students are expected to uphold these standards throughout their learning journey with the College and post-graduation. Any academic work submitted by a student is expected to be their own work, unless designated otherwise, all human and technological assisted generated sources must be attributed. Refer to the College's [Library web site](#) for attribution support and resources. All students are expected to be familiar with the College's [AA48: Academic Integrity](#) policy which outlines student and staff roles and responsibilities, the process for addressing, determining and ruling final academic decisions regarding violations of academic integrity as well as what represents academic misconduct. Students with any questions about academic integrity course expectations including but not limited to use of technology, generative AI and other resources to support completion of coursework, are encouraged to speak to their professor and refer to the course weekly schedule, assessment instructions, course announcements and materials.

Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL)

Students with visible and/or non-visible disabilities are encouraged to register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning \(CAL\)](#) in order to be eligible for appropriate learning supports and/or accommodations. Students are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with the Centre for Accessible Learning as early as possible when starting a program. Once your needs are identified, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be issued which you can share with your professors through the [CAL Student Portal](#). If you are a returning student, please ensure that professors are given a copy of your LOA each semester.

Test Accommodations for Students Registered with CAL

Students who require testing accommodations will book their tests/exams through the [CAL Student Portal](#). It is important to note the posted test/exam booking deadlines for the term. Test booking deadlines are communicated through CAL Disabilities Counsellors, CAL Testing Services, and other college wide communication. Additional information on the steps to book accommodated tests/exams with CAL Test Services can be found at [Step-by-Step Overview](#).

Retroactive Accommodations

Students are expected to meet evaluation and completion deadlines as stated in course outline and weekly schedule documents. In circumstances where evaluation deadlines are missed or student performance has been affected by a temporary, significant and/or unanticipated change in functional ability related to disability (including mental health), interim or retroactive accommodations may be considered. For these instances it is advised you reach out to CAL or your professors as soon as possible. For other situations where deferral of evaluations may be warranted, please consult Algonquin College Policy [AA21: Deferred Evaluation](#).

Network Credentials and College Email

Students at Algonquin College are provided with a college email account. This is the address that will be used when the College, your professors, or your fellow students communicate important information about your program or course activities. Your network credentials can be found in the [ACSIS portal](#) and you are expected to check your Algonquin email regularly and to use it to send and receive college-related email. Students are required to maintain the privacy of their AC login credentials. Sharing network credentials poses a security risk and is subject to disciplinary action. Your responsibility to protect your login credentials is governed by the [Information Security Policy IT01](#). Support is available through the college Information Technology Service (ITS) at: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/its/>

Mental Health and Wellness Supports

Canada has launched a national Suicide Helpline at www.988.ca and a wide range of mental health and wellness resources for Algonquin students are available at www.algonquincollege.com/SSS/student-health-wellness.

Student Course Feedback

Algonquin College invites students to share their course experience by completing a student course feedback survey for each course they take. For further details consult Algonquin College Policy [AA25: Student Course Feedback](#).

Use of Mobile Devices in Class

With the proliferation of small, personal mobile devices used for communications and data storage, Algonquin College believes there is a need to address their use during classes and examinations. During classes, the use of such devices unless authorized by your professor can be disruptive and disrespectful to others. During examinations, the use of such devices is generally prohibited unless authorized by your professor. Otherwise use is considered academic dishonesty in the form of cheating. For further details consult Algonquin College Policy [AA32: Use of Electronic Devices in Class](#).

Technology Requirements

Students are required to have access to a computer and to the internet. There may also be additional technology-related resources required to participate in a course that are not included in the course materials fee, such as headphones, webcams, specialized software, etc. Details on these requirements can be found in the Weekly Schedule document of the course for each course available on Brightspace.

Transfer of Credit

It is the student’s responsibility to retain course outlines for possible future use to support applications for transfer of credit to other educational institutions.

Safe Harbour

In the event of an unexpected major event (pandemic, etc.), your course may have changes that are not reflected in the Course Outline. Should this happen, the Weekly Schedule document will have updated information about your course.

Other Information

Students are required to respect the confidentiality of employer, client and/or patient information, interactions, and practices that occur either on Algonquin College premises, or at an affiliated clinical/field/co-op placement site. Concerns regarding clients, patients, and/or employer practices are to be brought to the attention of the program coordinator, or designated field/clinical/co-op placement supervisor so that they may be resolved collaboratively. Such concerns are not to be raised publically either verbally, in writing, or in electronic forums. These matters are to be addressed through established program communication pathways.