

Course Title: AI: The End of Humanity or the Beginning of a Better Future?

Course Description: What's AI and what will it mean for us humans? Accurate disease diagnostics in a nanosecond, safe autonomous vehicles, robot crop harvesters, super-smart administrative assistants, personal robot housemaids, etc. Or: Deep fake videos disrupting election campaigns; robots taking over the battlefield or the factory; bots with minds that their creators don't understand or control? As AI (Artificial Intelligence) permeates our lives, we had better understand its impacts on individuals, communities, and global society. We will focus on the ethical, social, legal, business, and economic implications of AI technologies. We will navigate beyond alarming headlines to gain a nuanced view of the current and future uses, development, and regulation of AI systems.

Format: A mix of discussion and presentations, plus sharing our responses to applications (apps) powered by AI. Two types of presentations. 1. Overviews of areas that will be transformed by AI, such as medicine, military, education, law enforcement, personal privacy, 2. Intros and how-to's for currently available AI-powered apps such as ChatGPT, Bing, Bard, Dall-E, Duolingo. We will use and discuss the featured apps. This is a hybrid class. For more info, [click here](#).

Coordinators: Bob Kemp, a retired attorney, has tracked recent AI developments; he co-coordinated *Huckleberry Finn*, *Frankenstein*, and other popular LLC courses. Linda Shamoan, a retired URI professor, taught courses on writing in electrotonic environments, and is currently chair of LLC's Technology Committee. Karen Stein was a professor of American Literature and of Women's Studies at URI. She and Linda co-coordinated LLC's popular poetry classes for several semesters.

(Course description co-authored and edited by ChatGPT.)