

Subject card

Subject name and code	Conversations with machines: Philosophical perspectives on the language use of AIs, PG_00210081						
Field of study	Biology						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024		Academic year of realisation of subject				
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		e-learning		
Year of study	3		Language of instruction		English english		
Semester of study	6		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Thomas Hodgson				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 30.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		0.0		20.0	50
Subject objectives	We will study some recent work by philosophers on the use of language by AIs.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		
			Students will practice: academic reading, academic writing, and constructing and critiquing arguments.		[SW3] text preparation/written work [SU3] text preparation/written work [SK3] text preparation/written work		
Subject contents	Philosophers have developed theories about the language use of humans. We will consider two questions: (1) Do these theories apply to AIs? (2) Should we change our theories so that they do apply to AIs?						
Prerequisites and co-requisites							
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria		Passing threshold		Percentage of the final grade		
	Writing a series of responses to the texts studied		100.0%		100.0%		
Recommended reading	Basic literature		Cappelen, H., & Dever, J. (2021). <i>Making AI intelligible: Philosophical foundations</i> . Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192894724.001.0001				
	Supplementary literature		Cappelen, H., & Dever, J. (2025). <i>Going whole hog: A philosophical defense of AI cognition</i> (arXiv:2504.13988). arXiv. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2504.13988				
	eResources addresses						

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Identify a philosophical claim about language use from a text and critically discuss that claim in the context of the course.
Work placement	Not applicable

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