

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE LAW

PROFESSOR AMY STEIN

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW

FALL 2025 SYLLABUS – LAW 6930 – 2 CREDITS

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Meeting Time: Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: HH 355B

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m. HH311; Thursdays, 4-5pm on Zoom (Canvas) or by appointment

Course Description:

Artificial intelligence (AI) is everywhere. The law is no exception. Increasingly, the world is seeing a rise in the many applications of our enhanced computing and predictive capabilities. Lawyers need to be at the forefront of this revolution. This course examines a broad range of legal and policy challenges posed by AI, machine learning and other emergent technologies. Through assigned readings, weekly discussion, and engagement with experts, students will explore the many promises and perils of AI. This course is innovative and cutting edge; it will require students to be so as well. The law in many of the areas we will be considering is still evolving. There will be plenty of opportunities to think about how existing laws might be adapted to meet the regulatory and policy needs relevant to these emerging technologies. Students engage with AI scholars across the country as the class explores issues raised by the intersection of algorithms and due process, free speech, bias and discrimination, predictive policing, generative creation and intellectual property, civil liability for semi-autonomous vehicles and medical devices, privacy and surveillance, sustainability, ethics, and national security to assess the implications for courts, agency oversight, lawyers, and society.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students should be able to perform the following:

- Understand the social and legal consequences and challenges of the transformation society is going through with respect to algorithms and AI.
- Develop the confidence to critically interrogate new technologies and understand at a high level the complicated relationship between law, technology, and society. This understanding is crucial so that you can apply the skills you learn here to future technologies that have not yet been invented or popularized.
- Craft persuasive legal arguments to answer discrete legal questions related to AI and technology.

Compliance with UF Honor Code:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. The UF Law Honor Code also prohibits use of artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to,

ChatGPT, to assist in completing quizzes, exams, papers, or other assessments unless expressly authorized by the professor to do so. As you will learn in life, there will be times when AI use is appropriate and times when it is not. A good practice is that you provide proper attribution to AI when used. You may not use it for your critical reflections or your final exam. You may use it to help prepare you for the exam. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/additional-information/honor-code-and-committee/honor-code>

Required Reading Materials:

No textbook is required. Instead, you are required to read and prepare materials that will be posted on Canvas, or available on Westlaw or the Internet. Please be sure to register for the Canvas course and have the materials with you in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page and the e-mail connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments. Please see Canvas for each session's assignments. Optional resources will be provided on Canvas should you want to explore deeper than we can dive in the time allotted.

Course Expectations:

Each class session will involve a mix of lecture, exercises, and discussion, all focusing on the week's assigned material. For some classes, guest speakers will join us. This course does *not* satisfy the Advanced Writing Requirement. No prior scientific background is required; merely a willingness to learn. The requirements for this course are as follows:

- *Preparation, Attendance, and Engagement:* You are expected to read and view the required materials before class, so that you are prepared to discuss them in class. Readings and viewings will be posted on Canvas. Our class sessions will vary, with a combination of lectures, guest speakers, in-class small group projects, and discussions. Substance, engagement, and timeliness are considered in participation. The one constant is an expectation that you will be an active participant in each week's class.
- *Weekly Critical Reflections.* For each of week, you are required to submit a 550-850 word critical reflection related to the readings for the week on Canvas. These reflections are due the day *before* class (each Monday at noon) so I have time to review them before class. Please submit all your work as a PDF or Word Document, include your name and word count, 12 pt font, Times New Roman, single-spaced, on Canvas. Without the assistance of AI, you need to respond to something that resonated with you from the readings (e.g., disagreeing, explaining how you think the authors missed an important dimension of the debate, agreeing and wanting more information, applying the concepts to current events, etc.). You can use the prompt provided on Canvas or choose your own.
- *Discussion Leader:* For one week during the semester, you are required to serve as a discussion leader. A sign-up sheet will be available for each of you to select a date for performing this role through the first week of class. If you do not sign up, a session will be assigned to you. It is your responsibility to refer to the discussion leader assignments on Canvas and be prepared before your assigned day. For the one week that you serve as discussion leader, you need to complete the following tasks:

- In addition to your critical reflection, (1) Include at least two discussion question for your colleagues. If we have a speaker that day, please address at least one of your questions for our speaker; and (2) Include a link or pdf to a hot topic article related to the theme for that class (distinct from the assigned readings) and be prepared to share and discuss how this hot topic is related and expands upon the readings for that week.
 - Be prepared to lead your colleagues in a discussion of the critical reflection submitted and readings for that week. You will be the first ones called upon to discuss in class and engage with any speakers before we open questions to the rest of the class.
 - If at all possible, do not miss your discussion day. If that is unavoidable, you must contact me by the end of your assigned discussion week so I can reassign to you a different week.
- *Final Exam.* We will have a two-hour in-person, closed book, final examination.

ABA Out-of-Class Hours Requirement: ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in-class instruction. Each class is approximately 2 hours in length, requiring at least *4 hours of preparation* outside of class including reading the assigned materials, serving as discussion leader, and studying for your final.

Class Attendance:

Students are expected to attend and participate in class. I am assuming that each student enrolled in this course is committing to attend every class to the best of their abilities, and class attendance is required by both the ABA and the Law School. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting and each student is responsible for ensuring their own recording. You may not record attendance for someone else. The law school’s policy on attendance can be found [here](#). A student who fails to meet this attendance requirement will be dropped from the course.

Nevertheless, to allow for exigencies in life, you are **permitted two class absences** without impacting your final grade. I do not make any differentiation between “excused” or “unexcused” absences, so your absences can be for any reason, including for job interviews, school activities, work tasks, illness or medical appointments, and life. If possible, professional courtesy encourages you to notify me if you will not be in class. Please budget accordingly so that you are not left at the end of the semester with a needed absence and your budget depleted. Please notify me should you have a family or medical situation or an emergency that will require missing more than two classes, and we will discuss how to accommodate your situation.

UF Law respects students’ [observance of religious holidays](#) and the two absence policy does not apply to these religious holidays.

- Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith.
- Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence.
- Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

Setting aside these exceptions, for each absence beyond two, your grade will be reduced by one-third of a grade (e.g., A- to B+). If you miss three or more scheduled classes, I have the discretion to render you ineligible to receive credit for the course. This policy starts on the first day of classes, not the end of the drop/add period.

Grading Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated based upon participation, submission of weekly critical reflections, quality of discussion leader role, and a final exam. This course follows the Levin College of Law's grading policies found here: <https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/uf-law-student-handbook-and-academic-policies>

Class Component	Percent of Grade
Discussion Leader and Participation	20%
Critical Reflections (weekly)	30%
Final Exam	50%
TOTAL	100%

Professional Courtesy

As a matter of professionalism, you are expected to be on time for class—meaning seated and ready to begin when class starts. Arriving late is disruptive not only to me, but to your fellow students. Please do not arrive late to class or leave early absent extenuating circumstances. If you need to do so, please notify me in advance and sit near one of the exits to minimize your disruption to others. Please make sure your cell phone is turned off during class. I reserve the right to deduct points from your final grade if you engage in behavior that significantly disrupts the learning environment for your classmates. After two late arrivals, each additional late arrival can be counted as a class absence.

Use of Laptops in Class

Although laptops and comparable technology are not prohibited, I would encourage you to use them judiciously. As with all technology, there is a time and place for them.¹ Some days, your laptops will be required. Without a textbook, I understand that you may rely on them for your readings and your notes, but please close all other browser windows, including your email. Unfortunately, many of us succumb to the temptation to multi-task, and for the time we are together, you owe yourself, your classmates, and me your focused attention. I appreciate eye contact and engagement, and laptops must be closed when guest speakers are presenting in person. If I can detect a lack of responsiveness due to other activities on your laptop, you may jeopardize your grade in this class.

¹ See, e.g., A Learning Secret: Don't Take Notes with a Laptop, <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>; Princeton University study shows students more likely to learn by taking handwritten notes, http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2014/06/princeton_university_study_finds_students_more_likely_to_learn_by_taking_handwritten_notes.html.

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies, including compliance with the Grading, Accommodations, Class Recordings, and Course Evaluations policies can be found here: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/427635/files?preview=98226140>.

Preferred Name and Pronouns

Many of you may have a preferred name that is not the name given to me on the official roll. It is important to the learning environment that you feel welcome and safe in this class. I want you to be comfortable participating in class discussions and communicating with me on any issues related to the class. I would like to refer to you by your preferred name. As such, if your preferred name is not the name listed on the official UF roll, please let me know as soon as possible by e-mail or otherwise before the first day of class. Feel free to ask for instructions on changing your display name in Canvas.

Discourse and the Classroom

As a law student and future lawyer, it is important that you be able to engage in rigorous discourse and critical evaluation while also demonstrating civility and respect for others. This is even more important in the case of controversial issues and other topics that may elicit strong emotions. As a group, we are likely diverse across racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic, religious, and political lines. As we enter one of the great learning spaces in the world—the law school classroom—and develop our unique personality as a class, I encourage each of us to:

- commit to self-examination of our values and assumptions;
- speak honestly, thoughtfully, and respectfully;
- listen carefully and respectfully;
- reserve the right to change our mind and allow for others to do the same;
- allow ourselves and each other to verbalize ideas and to push the boundaries of logic and reasoning both as a means of exploring our beliefs as well as a method of sharpening our skills as lawyers.

Health and Wellness Resources

Law school can be a daunting experience, especially when life outside the law becomes challenging. UF Law provides numerous resources for your support, and I encourage you to seek help if you have concerns. If you are comfortable doing so, you may also notify me so that I can direct you to further resources. More resources are available on Canvas.

Weekly Course Schedule of Topics and Assignments:

This syllabus is offered as a guide to the direction of the course. I suggest you use the Canvas site to access your assignments as everything should be linked and easy to find there. I will post future assignments on Canvas at least a week before the class and may be adjusted based on the availability of our speakers. The readings reflect a diversity of videos and readings with varied difficulty, depending on the texts we will rely upon each week (e.g., cases, statutory, policy documents, news articles). Some primary source documents are quite long, so please pay attention to my notes that direct you to read selected excerpts.

1 8/19	Class 1: Introduction to Algorithms, Machine Learning, and Artificial Intelligence <i>Visiting Scholar: Dr. Vincent Bindschaedler, University of Florida Computer & Information Science & Engineering</i> See Canvas for Assignment and Readings
2 8/26	Class 2: Transparency and Explanations in Algorithms See Canvas for Assignment and Readings
3 9/2	Class 3: Introduction to Algorithmic Discrimination and Bias See Canvas for Assignment and Readings
4 9/9	Class 4: Privacy and GDPR <i>Visiting Scholar: Professor Daniel Solove, George Washington University Law School</i> See Canvas for Assignment and Readings
5 9/16	Class 5: Criminal Justice Risk Assessments/Predictive Policing/ Algorithmic Surveillance and Biometrics See Canvas for Assignment and Readings
6 9/23	Class 6: Generative AI, Transformers, and Intellectual Property <i>Visiting Scholar: Professor Derek Bambauer</i> See Canvas for Assignment and Readings
7 9/30	Class 7: AI, Sustainability, and Crypto <i>Visiting Scholar: Professor Jiaying Jiang</i> See Canvas for Assignment and Readings
8 10/7	Class 8: Speech, Democracy, and Disinformation See Canvas for Assignment and Readings

9 10/14	Class 9: Algorithms and Tort Law – Medicine, Pharmacy, and Autonomous Vehicles <i>See Canvas for Assignment and Readings</i>
10 10/21	Class 10: Robotics and Consumer Protection <i>See Canvas for Assignment and Readings</i>
11 10/28	Class 11: National Security, Drones, and Artificial Intelligence <i>Visiting Scholar: Professor R. Aubrey Davis III, United States Air Force Academy</i> <i>See Canvas for Assignment and Readings</i>
12 11/4	Class 12: Predictive Learning in the Legal Workplace, Contracts, and Labor Implications <i>See Canvas for Assignment and Readings</i>
11/11	<i>NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY</i>
13 11/18	Class 13: Proposals for Oversight of the Algorithmic Society <i>See Canvas for Assignment and Readings</i>
12/11	FINAL EXAM