

THE NEWMAN INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

AI: Philosophical and Theological Perspectives (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Systematic Theology) or PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 0434

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. 60 ECTS credits in philosophy or in theology or religious studies.

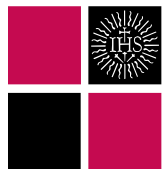
Educational goals

After having completed the course the students are expected to:

- be able to explain philosophical and theological perspectives on artificial intelligence, especially issues concerning the concept of the human being, consciousness, intelligence, utopian visions of the future, and implicit or explicit religious ideas;
- be able to understand how discussions of artificial intelligence revive classical philosophical and theological themes;
- be able to analyze and critically reflect within the framework of the philosophical and theological questions implied by discussions of artificial intelligence.

Course content

Artificial intelligence brings philosophical and theological ideas back to life. The development of chatbots and other machines capable of imitating the intelligent behavior of animals prompts us to ask questions such as: What is life? Can computers think? Is the human being a machine, or perhaps rather a god with the power to create artificial worlds? Can we overcome death and become immortal through technological development? These are some of the questions addressed in this course.



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Teaching and examination

Teaching takes place partly via a digital learning platform throughout the duration of the course, and partly through seminars and lectures conducted via Zoom. Assessment is carried out through the submission of a paper of 10–12 pages.

Bibliography

Pasquinelli, Matteo, *The Eye of the Master: A Social History of Artificial Intelligence* (Verso, 2023), 272 pages.

Wiener, Norbert, *God & Golem, Inc.: A Comment on Certain Points Where Cybernetics Impinges on Religion* (MIT Press, 1964), 95 pages. Available electronically on Moodle.

Course reader, approximately 500 pages.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

Finalised 2026-05-20

Valid as 2026-07-15