

AI Teaching and Learning Symposium 2026 Engagement Stations

AI Literacy & Foundations

CS 245: An AI Literacy Course for Everyone

Presenter: Asa Ben-Hur

Email: asa@colostate.edu

Position: Professor

Department: CNS, Computer Science

Description

We will present CS 245 ("AI beyond the hype"), an AI literacy course that provides hands-on experience with AI tools along with an overview of the ideas that power large language models.

Demystifying AI: Teaching Gradient Descent and Parameter Decomposition to Everyone

Presenter: Dustin Tucker

Email: dustin.tucker@colostate.edu

Position: Associate Professor

Department: College of Liberal Arts, Philosophy

Description

Demystifying AI is a course designed for students from all backgrounds, technical and non-technical, which covers the mathematics, statistics, and computer science behind AI in an accessible way without oversimplifying or skipping over important technical concepts. Students can come in not knowing what a mathematical function is and come away understanding technical concepts like gradient descent and parameter decomposition.

Having a detailed, in-depth understanding of how AI models are trained, make decisions, and generate content makes for better-informed citizens and better-prepared job seekers. The course enables students to comprehend, articulate, and critically evaluate the risks, benefits, and trustworthiness of AI.

Topics include:

- AI concepts, alignment, AGI, interpretability
- Search algorithms and optimization
- Bias, variance, model selection
- Gradient descent

- Supervised and unsupervised learning
 - Neural networks and deep learning
 - Large language models
 - Attention and embeddings
 - Reinforcement learning
 - Diffusion models
 - Retrieval-augmented generation (RAG)
 - Agentic AI
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Teaching Students to Navigate AI Information

Presenter: Kendra Macomber

Email: kendra.macomber@colostate.edu

Position: Head of Student Success

Department: Libraries

Co-Presenters

- Kristy Nowak
- Heather Moon
- Martha Rabura
- Monica Latham

Description

AI is an ever-increasing part of the information landscape, and students need a new set of skills to navigate information. At our engagement station, we will share tools and activities faculty can incorporate into their courses that help students develop into savvy AI information evaluators.

Teaching & Learning Design

Navigating Writing and AI Through Dialogue at the CSU Writing Center

Presenter: Leslie Davis

Email: leslie.davis@colostate.edu

Position: Senior Instructor/Co-director

Department: College of Liberal Arts/English

Co-Presenters

- Jessica Garcia
- Sydney Meier

Description

As generative AI has become a regular part of students' writing lives, tutoring and writing centers have worked to adjust to changing expectations, guidelines, and technologies. We serve in a middle space between faculty and students, not evaluating student work but instead helping them navigate the intellectual and ethical demands of what it means to explore and present their ideas in writing.

Because of our educational philosophy and the ever-changing landscape of generative AI, the CSU Writing Center has focused on open dialogue, critical AI literacy, and generative questioning as its primary response.

The session will showcase tutor training and consultation practices that help students critically evaluate if, when, why, and how AI can support writing and learning goals. Presenters will also discuss helping students interpret differing faculty AI policies and share tutor observations about student concerns and challenges. The session concludes with discussion of strategies for reinforcing student agency and strengthening partnerships between faculty and the Writing Center.

Back to the Future: Using AI to Understand the Past

Presenter: Andrea Duffy

Email: andrea.duffy@colostate.edu

Position: Associate Professor of History

Department: History Department, College of Liberal Arts

Description

This session explores a classroom-tested oral history assignment in which students use GenAI to "interview" historical figures. The presentation examines assignment goals, scaffolding, guardrails, student responses, and broader questions surrounding effective AI-integrated assignment design.

Participants will leave with:

- An adaptable assignment model
- Strategies for ethical AI use
- Opportunities to design similar assignments for their own contexts

The session invites faculty to move from reacting to AI toward intentionally designing educational experiences that leverage it effectively.

Using Reflective Approaches with AI-Infused Writing Assignments to Expand Students' Rights to Their Own Language

Presenter: Sue Doe

Department: TILT

Description

This engagement station builds on published scholarship in *Expanding Critical Digital Literacies*. The session presents reflective writing assignment approaches that help students develop functional, critical, and rhetorical understanding of AI while supporting Students' Rights to Their Own Language.

The proposal argues that thoughtfully designed writing assignments can increase understanding of both the opportunities and risks of AI while reinforcing student agency and authority.

Using AI to Enhance Classroom Teaching Strategies

Presenter: Umit Shrestha

Email: umit.shrestha@colostate.edu

Department: Colorado School of Public Health

Status Note: Duplicate submission consolidated.

Description

This session demonstrates how AI was used as a design partner to create an interactive formative classroom activity, *Mapping Ethics in Global Health*. The presenter built an interactive learning tool without prior coding experience using an AI assistant and GitHub Pages deployment.

Attendees will:

- Experience the student-facing activity
- Examine feedback and instructional design logic
- Learn the workflow for AI-assisted educational tool creation
- Consider applications in their own disciplines

No technical background is required.

Research & Scholarly Work

Prompt, Debug, Repeat: Solving Coding Problems with AI at the Coding Support Hub

Presenter: Kevin Worthington

Department: Geospatial Centroid (Libraries)

Description

Introduction to the CSU Libraries Coding Support Hub, including demonstrations of its AI-assisted coding support, learning resources, student-led support services, and referral network.

Find Your AI Research Match: Speed Dating Edition

Presenter: Khaleedah Thomas

Department: Library

Duplicate Submission Consolidated

Description

Participants rotate through brief encounters with multiple AI research tools (including Elicit and AI2 Asta) to learn strengths, limitations, and appropriate use cases. The speed-dating format helps instructors discover tools that match their scholarly and instructional needs.

Using AI to Improve the Accessibility of Handwritten Documents

Presenter: Amber D'Ambrosio

Department: CSU Libraries

Description

This session demonstrates the use of AI models to transcribe handwritten documents, including difficult handwriting, marginalia, and structured records. Presenters will compare CSU-GPT and Gemini workflows and discuss best practices for accuracy, accessibility, and hallucination reduction.

Policy, Ethics & Governance

How's My Driving? Using AI without Compromising Autonomy

Presenter: Candice Clemens

Department: Engineering Business Office

Description

Participants engage with an AI coaching system that promotes intentional AI use by requiring users to define audience, objectives, and AI roles before beginning a task. The session explores autonomy, skill retention, and effective human-AI collaboration.

Constitution, Choice, Ledger: Grading Process, Not Product, in AI Classrooms

Presenter: Andrew Meyer

Department: Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts

Description

Students create AI constitutions, make authentic decisions about AI use, and document their creative processes. The session presents an assessment model emphasizing transparency, governance, process documentation, and student ownership of AI policy development.

Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: Student-Reported Use and Perspectives

Presenter: Katie Gerst

Department: CHHS HDFS

Co-Presenter: Lily Ortega

Description

This study examines how Human Development and Family Science students use AI in coursework, including frequency, purposes, perceived benefits, ethical concerns, dependency risks, and policy understanding. Findings illuminate how students interpret responsible AI use and identify opportunities for clearer instructional guidance.

Thinking Through AI in Graduate Programs

Presenter: Meara Faw

Department: Liberal Arts; Communication Studies

Co-Presenter: Sara Anne Thompkins, Graduate School Associate Dean.

Description

This session explores department-level AI policies for graduate education, including coursework, research, assistantships, dissertations, and continuous registration considerations. Resources will be provided to support conversations about AI governance in graduate programs.

Creative & Disciplinary Applications

Making Music in the Age of AI - What's Next?

Presenter: Daniel Stein

Department: Music, Theater and Dance

Description

Using recent developments in the music industry as a lens, this session examines AI training methods, intellectual property concerns, responsible innovation, and the implications of AI-generated creative work. Participants will explore the role of education in preparing creators to engage responsibly with AI technologies.
