

AI, Law, and Business Research Practicum
MGT 4803

INSTRUCTOR:

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Office hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides students with hands-on experience conducting applied research at the intersection of artificial intelligence, law, and business. Students will collaborate with peers from business, computing, public policy, and related disciplines to develop AI-driven solutions for real-world legal, regulatory, and business challenges. Through weekly project-based collaboration and dedicated instruction on computational methods, business applications, legal frameworks, and ethical considerations, students will gain practical skills in data analysis, machine learning, and research methods. No previous coding or programming experience is required. The course culminates in a research paper detailing the project's methods and findings, with the opportunity for submission to undergraduate scholarly journals, conferences, and/or the Institute's Undergraduate Research Spring Symposium.

PREREQUISITES: None

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: After completing MGT 4803, students should be able to:

1. Analyze legal and business challenges in AI-driven research projects.
2. Apply computational and AI-based methods to extract and interpret legal and business-related data for research and policy applications.
3. Communicate research findings effectively through written reports and presentations, synthesizing technical and legal insights for academic and professional audiences.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: None

CLASS POLICIES:

1. Classroom community: Show respect for your classmates and me by being punctual and courteous and participating actively in class activities.
2. Communication: Students are responsible for all material and communications posted on Canvas or other project management platforms used in the course.
3. Use of electronic devices in class: Students are permitted to use electronic devices (laptop, phone, tablet) in class only to access course materials or for other course-related reasons. Classes may not be recorded without my express permission.
4. Academic honesty and plagiarism: You are required to familiarize yourself with and abide by the Georgia Institute of Technology's Academic Honor Code in all aspects of participation in this course, including the section establishing student responsibilities with respect to academic integrity. Compliance with the Academic Honor Code is a condition of enrollment in the College of Business. If I suspect that any student has violated that Academic Honor Code or the Honor Agreement, I will refer the matter to the Office of Student Integrity for appropriate action. The full Honor Code is available here: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/>.

5. **Disability accommodation:** The Georgia Institute of Technology has established policies with respect to disability accommodation through Office of Disability Services. These policies may be accessed at the Office of Disability Services website located at disabilityservices.gatech.edu. Students seeking disability accommodation should refer to the student guide and documentation pages on this website. Students must comply with the requirements set forth by the Office of Disability Services to receive accommodation. More information on assistance available to individuals with disabilities may be found here: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/policies/disabled-assistance/>.
6. **Legal advice:** Any and all opinions or statements as to legal matters made in this course are for teaching purposes only and are not intended and should not be construed as dispensing legal advice or creating an attorney-client relationship.
7. **Changes:** This syllabus expresses my administrative policies and intentions for the subject matter for the class; however, I reserve the right to change any policies and/or topics and assignments. I further reserve the right to make changes without notice and within my own discretion.

GRADES AND ASSESSMENTS: Students' grades consist of the five equally-weighted components described below. There is no extra credit in the course.

Grade component	Percentage of final grade
Attendance and participation	20%
Initial outline	20%
Mid-term progress	20%
Final paper	20%
Weekly project work and progress notes	20%

A 100-90%; B 89-80%; C 79-70%; D 69-60%; F 59-0%

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: One class meeting per week will be devoted to hands-on project-based work with non-Scheller students (mostly from the College of Computing and Public Policy). The other weekly meeting will consist of Scheller students only, and will provide instruction on computational/AI methods, law, ethics, and business-related topics pertinent to the experiential coursework. Students will also share their progress with each other during these sessions. Repeated, unexcused absences and/or lack of substantive participation in these meetings or in project work as a whole are grounds for a reduction of the attendance and participation grade.

INITIAL OUTLINES: Outlines will be in written form and also presented during the relevant week's Scheller class meeting. They should describe the plan for and focus of the student's work during the semester. The outline may cover the whole project to which the student is assigned, or just one part of the project. For example, the student may be assigned to a project team that is developing an AI tool that can extract key information from court documents filed in bankruptcy proceedings. The student might write up this entire project, including methods and findings, in their paper. Or they might focus on the ethical implications of using AI tools to analyze court documents more generally. The outline should draw on their project work and convey the scope and focus of their paper, whatever that scope and focus may be. Students should familiarize themselves early in the semester with materials on [professional and scholarly writing and presentation](#).

MID-TERM PROGRESS: At mid-semester, students will be graded on their progress toward their final paper. Depending on their particular topic, the instructor will coordinate with the student to determine their individual goals and requirements to demonstrate mid-term progress. Progress should be demonstrated in written form, e.g. half of a draft complete, or reaching some milestone in data analysis, and also presented during the relevant week's Scheller class meeting.

FINAL PAPER: The semester's work will culminate in a paper describing the project's methods and findings or analyzing some other aspect of the work. The paper will be graded and submitted to an appropriate journal, e.g. an [undergraduate law review](#) or other undergraduate scholarly journal, or to a conference, including the Institute's [Undergraduate Research Spring Symposium](#). The instructor will coordinate with the student to decide on an appropriate publication or conference venue and convey the relevant requirements for content and formatting. Papers will be in written form and also presented during the final week's Scheller class meeting.

PROJECT WORK AND PROGRESS NOTES: Each week, students will document their work on their project by submitting progress notes. These notes have three goals:

- Facilitate learning (organize thoughts, think about work, reflect)
- Documentation (document work, track progress, allow hand-off to future students if necessary)
- Enable assessment (shows individual contributions and collaborations, tangible item to grade)

Students will use these two questions to structure their project notes:

- What did you do this week on the project? Which of your to-do items from last week did you accomplish? For tasks that are still open, what is their status? If applicable, why didn't you make progress? What issues/limitations/challenges do you need to address?
- What do you plan to do in the coming week? What is your plan for executing your next steps/to-do items? **NOTE:** Do not leave each project meeting without at least one clear task to accomplish by the next week's meeting. If you are unclear about your task, ask your instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Deviations from the Course Schedule may be necessary and will be announced in advance.

Week 1: (1) Initial all-hands meeting of all students. Introduction to the course structure and expectations, including project(s) for the semester. (2) Scheller-only class meeting. Introduction to Scheller student expectations, course components, and deadlines. Twice-weekly meetings continue through the semester (project team and Scheller-only).

Weeks 2-3: Weekly meetings and project work. Progress notes due each week.

Week 4: Initial outline due and presented during weekly Scheller class meeting.

Weeks 5-7: Weekly meetings and project work. Progress notes due each week.

Week 8: Mid-term progress due and presented during weekly Scheller class meeting.

Weeks 9-13: Weekly meetings and project work. Progress notes due each week.

Week 14: Final paper due and presented weekly Scheller class meeting.