CLA5006: TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Effective Term
Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title
Technology for Social Transformation

Subject Code
CLA - College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Course Number
5006

Academic Unit
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

College/School
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration
One Semester

Credit Units
3

Level
P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction
Chinese

Medium of Assessment
Chinese

Prerequisites
Nil

Precursors
Nil

Equivalent Courses
Nil

Exclusive Courses
Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

"Technology for Social Transformation" is an innovative elective course offered of the Master of Social Sciences in Cross Sectoral Leadership (MSSCSL) program. This course delves into the transformative power of technology, focusing on the utilization of cutting-edge tools such as AI, particularly Large Language Models, and blockchain for social impact. Students will explore impactful cases and methods for deploying these technologies to address societal challenges. The course will cover AI techniques including prompting strategies, fine-tuning models, and creating AI agents to handle complex tasks in social venturing activities. Additionally, students will learn how to design and analyze simple experiments involving users of AI technologies.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explore the applications of technology, including AI and blockchain, for driving social transformation and addressing societal challenges.	20	x		
2	Develop skills in utilizing AI techniques such as prompting strategies, fine-tuning models, and creating AI agents for social venturing activities.	20	x	x	
3	Understand how to deploy technologies effectively to create positive social impact and foster innovation in social leadership.	20	x	x	
4	Design and analyze experiments involving users of AI technologies to optimize user experience and impact.	20	x	x	x
5	Explore the ethical implications and considerations of deploying advanced technologies in social ventures.	20	x	x	

A1: Attitude
Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability
Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments
Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

	LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Engage in formal lectures explaining the fundamentals of traditional financial systems alongside three core competencies for social transformation: public policy, social entrepreneurship, and cultural innovation.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3-hour seminar per week
2	Applied Case Studies & Innovation Challenges	Analyze impactful AI and blockchain deployments to collaboratively develop creative, tech-driven solutions for social transformation.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
3	AI Agent Creation & Blockchain Exploration	Engage in hands-on AI literacy and fine-tuning to develop custom AI agents, while exploring blockchain applications to foster transparency and trust in social ventures.	1, 5	
4	Inclusive UX Design & User Experiments	Apply a socially inclusive mindset to UI, UX, and user journey design, and conduct user experiments to evaluate the effectiveness, security and user experience of AI, Blockchain, Cloud technologies and Data Science.	1, 5	
5	Ethical Considerations Discussions	Participate in discussions on the ethical considerations of using advanced technologies in social Leadership.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	AI-Powered Skills Development	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	-	Yes
2	User Experience Experiment Design	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	Yes
3	Blockchain Application Proposal	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	50	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Additional Information for ATs

We will follow the updated guideline for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools in Learning and Teaching (For Staff/ Student). According to the part IV of the Guidelines, the use of GenAI tools is **generally permitted** in **formative assessment tasks** unless otherwise specified by the Course Leaders. The use of GenAI tools is generally NOT permitted for **summative assessment tasks** such as examinations for fairness and academic integrity purposes.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

AI-Powered Skills Development

Criterion

- Problem Identification & Value Mapping: Clarity and specificity in identifying a real-world social or cultural problem, with a well-defined mapping of the core social values driving the AI intervention.
- Social Entrepreneurship & Task Effectiveness: Strategic integration of AI literacy and agentic design to effectively handle complex tasks within social venturing or social entrepreneurship activities.
- Technical Execution & Cultural Innovation: Innovation, creativity, and hands-on technical competence demonstrated in model fine-tuning, prompting strategies, and agent creation to foster cultural or social innovation.
- Impact & Public Policy Evaluation: Critical evaluation of the AI agent’ s performance, its potential impact on social transformation, and its compliance with relevant public policy and AI governance frameworks.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Outstanding
Clear complex problem; strategic and innovative AI application; strong technical competence; rigorous impact and policy analysis.

Good (B+, B, B-)

High
Clear problem; effective AI use; solid technical execution; sound impact and policy discussion.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate
General problem; functional but limited AI use; mostly descriptive impact discussion.

Marginal (D)

Basic
Unclear problem; superficial AI use; minimal impact or policy evaluation.

Failure (F)

Not reaching marginal level
No clear problem; incorrect/incomplete AI use; lacks analysis.

Assessment Task

User Experience Experiment Design

Criterion

- Methodology & Inclusive Design Mindset: Design of user experiments with clear objectives and a robust methodology rooted in a socially inclusive design mindset.
- Comprehensive Experience Mapping (UI/UX): Deep integration of user interface (UI), user experience (UX), and detailed user journey design tailored to the target community.

- Universal Design & Accessibility: Concrete application of universal design principles and accessibility standards to ensure equitable digital access and inclusion.
- Ethical Execution & Policy-Driven Insights: Execution of experiments respecting data privacy, public policy, and ethical safeguards, coupled with evidence-based recommendations to optimize the technology's social impact based on user feedback.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Outstanding
Rigorous inclusive methodology; strong UI/UX integration; clear accessibility and ethical compliance; insightful recommendations.

Good (B+, B, B-)

High
Clear methodology; good UI/UX integration; accessibility and ethics addressed.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate
Basic methodology; limited depth in UI/UX and accessibility; largely descriptive analysis.

Marginal (D)

Basic
Weak methodology; minimal accessibility or ethical consideration.

Failure (F)

Not reaching marginal level
No coherent design; lacks inclusion, ethics, and analysis.

Assessment Task

Blockchain Application Proposal

Criterion

- Relevance to Social Entrepreneurship: Clarity, feasibility, and relevance of the proposed blockchain infrastructure in solving structural social problems and scaling social ventures.
- Social Value & Transformation Assessment: Rigorous identification of the social challenges addressed and the specific social values (such as transparency, equity, and trust) preserved or generated by the blockchain application.
- Public Policy & Regulatory Feasibility: Thorough analysis of the legal, compliance, and public policy implications of deploying the decentralized solution within specific socio-political contexts.
- Argumentation & Strategic Presentation: Presentation of the proposal using compelling case studies, persuasive arguments, and innovative ideas to advocate for tech-driven cultural or social transformation.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Outstanding
Innovative, feasible proposal; strong social value and regulatory analysis; compelling argumentation.

Good (B+, B, B-)

High
Clear and feasible proposal; sound social value and policy discussion.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate
Relevant but limited scalability or regulatory depth; adequate argumentation.

Marginal (D)

Basic

Weak feasibility or unclear social relevance; limited policy understanding.

Failure (F)

Not reaching marginal level
Unrealistic or incomplete proposal; lacks social value, feasibility, and coherence.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

- Social Innovation through Technology - Exploring how new technologies can create innovative solutions to pressing social problems.
- Digital Inclusion - Strategies for ensuring equitable access to technology and digital literacy across all communities.
- Technology for Civic Engagement - Using digital platforms to enhance citizen participation in governance and decision-making processes.
- Smart Communities - Implementing smart city and community technologies to improve quality of life and sustainability.
- Data for Good - Leveraging big data and analytics to inform policy, drive social change, and measure impact.
- Human-Centered Design - Applying design thinking principles to develop technology solutions that meet real user needs.
- Ethical Tech Development - Addressing ethical considerations and promoting responsible development and deployment of technology.
- Blockchain for Transparency - Utilizing blockchain technology to enhance transparency, accountability, and trust in social systems.
- AI and Machine Learning for Social Impact - Exploring applications of AI and ML in areas such as healthcare, education, and environmental conservation.
- Internet of Things (IoT) for Social Good - Deploying IoT solutions to improve infrastructure, public services, and resource management.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order (2018), Kai-Fu Lee
2	Technology and the Rise of Great Powers: How Diffusion Shapes Economic Competition (2024), Jeffrey Ding
3	"Technological Competition and the US-China Rivalry", (Oxford Academic, M. Taylor Fravel (2025)

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Some Simple Economics of the Blockchain, Christian Catalini and Joshua S. Gans NBER (2019)
2	《治理人工智能，助力造福人类》 (Governing AI for Humanity: Final Report) by 联合国 / United Nations (2024)
3	《人工智能安全治理白皮书（2025）》 by 中国联通与华为技术 / China Unicom & Huawei (2025)
4	Digital Public Infrastructure and Development: A World Bank Group Approach by J. Clark, G. Marin, et al., World Bank (2025)
5	Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI by Yuval Noah Harari (2024)
6	The How We Need Now: A Capacity Agenda for 2025 by Andrew Greenway & Jennifer Pahlka, Public Digital (2024)