

## **The Philosophy of AI**

**Instructor:** Daniel Kodaj

### **Content of the course:**

This is an English-language course. After a brief look at theory of computation and the nature of large language models, we will read philosophical texts about the difference between human thinking and algorithmic ‘minds’. Some people believe that AI systems will become conscious one day and many believe that they will soon surpass humans in terms of thinking and understanding. We will discuss philosophical challenges to this claim. The challenges include Searle’s Chinese Room, the Lucas/Penrose argument from Gödel’s first incompleteness theorem, and arguments by John Haugeland, Richard Dreyfus, and Brian Cantwell Smith that are influenced by the phenomenological tradition. We will also touch on the ethics of AI.

A detailed week-by-week syllabus, along with the readings, is available from 5 February on the course website:

[elte.dkodaj.net](http://elte.dkodaj.net)

### **Assessment**

#### **BA students and MA/PhD students outside Philosophy:**

This is a seminar where you are expected to attend regularly and read the texts. Assessment is based on two in-class tests (midterm and final) plus an in-class presentation. The presentation should be 15 minutes (+10 minutes Q&A) and it should analyze one of the readings (unless you make some other arrangement with the instructor). The time and topic of the presentation must be approved by the instructor in advance.

The tests will feature 5 short questions about the content of the previous 5 readings, plus an essay question (also about the previous 5 readings). You cannot use any electronic devices or printed material during the tests, with the possible exception of a printed English dictionary.

Grading:

- presentation: 0–30 points
- midterm test: 0–35 points
- final test: 0–35 points

60–69 points: D (2), 70–79 points: C (3), 80–89: points B (4), 90–95 points: A (5), 96–99 points: A+, 100 points A++.

If you miss one or both of the tests, there will be a 90-minute make-up session in the first week of the exam period, on 20 May. The presentations must occur during termtime.

#### **Philosophy MA/PhD students:**

The requirements are generally the same but the presentation should be 30 minutes (+10 mins Q&A) and the test questions will be more difficult (there will be a separate test sheet for Philosophy MA/PhD students).