DIPARTIMENTO DI
ECONOMIA POLITICA
E STATISTICA
— DEPS

unisi

Summer School on

# The Economics of Artificial Intelligence

3-5 June 2026
Piazza San Francesco, 7 - Siena
Cripta Hall

## Introduction

This course explores the economic implications of artificial intelligence (AI), examining its impact on various aspects of the economy, from labor markets and inequality to long-term growth. It presents a theoretical model to analyze AI's effects, considering factors like automation, innovation, and the potential for an AI arms race. The course also explores the ethical concerns surrounding AI, including alignment problems and existential risks, evaluating policy interventions to mitigate these risks. The course further explores the potential for AI-driven explosive economic growth, contrasting this with the possibility of an AI-induced growth collapse, and analyzes the long-term implications of AI development, even considering the Fermi Paradox and the possibility of extraterrestrial AI.

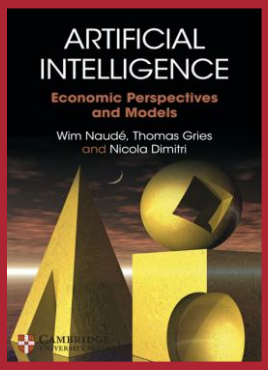
The course will discuss policy implications for AI, including the need for regulation and governance to ensure safe and beneficial AI. The course will also highlight the need for government regulators to be sufficiently resourced to regulate AI advances. The importance of policy on business models, not just technology, will be stressed. It will cover the importance of increasing trust and understanding of AI, as well as ensuring adequate infrastructure for AI systems.

## Target Audience

Economists, policymakers, researchers, and anyone interested in understanding the basics of AI and its relationship with economic theory and the economy.

Graduate students and advanced undergraduate students in economics and computer science.

## Basic text




Wim Naudé, Thomas Gries and Nicola Dimitri (2024).
Artificial Intelligence: Economic Perspectives and Models.
Cambridge University Press

## Information

The course will start on 3 June 2026, with the following daily schedule: 10am-1pm and 3pm-6pm. Participation is free of charge. The course may award up to 3 Credits (CFU) to University of Siena students, and possibly from other Universities. Students interested in receiving the credits should verify with their Degree Committee if, and under what conditions, the credits could be awarded. Participants will have to enroll at the following link, before 20 May 2026.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflbrapRfOa0pKQYqxO0CP8Vi79ELtz7O8YrZWZiRG8QKZV3A/viewform

Attendance will be recorded each day. Upon request, at the end of the course a participation certificate will be released specifying the number of days attended. The certificate will also report the outcome of the final, simple, test that some Degree Courses may require to take to award the credits (CFU).

Any clarification question should be sent to Prof. Nicola Dimitri, dimitri@unisi.it.

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