The Politics Of AI

Course category: (S) Economics, Finance, Political Science & Law

Instructor: **Jeff Alger**

The Politics Of AI

Thinking About AI takes the long view. This course takes the short one: a nonpartisan look at the politics, headlines, and legislation of AI right now. It's timed to land as the 2028 presidential field tries out positions on AI, and after a midterm cycle that saw the first real campaign spending on the issue. There are five sessions.

1. Policy toolkit. Picks up where the Public Policy session of Thinking About AI left off: the full set of tools available to laws and regulations, including the ones that encourage rather than constrain.

2. Targets, part 1: safety and governance. How safe is AI, who is responsible for it, and what's on the books or under consideration.

3. Targets, part 2: equity. Who is harmed, who benefits, and whether policy can make either distribution fair â€” bias, access, and the law so far.

4. Voters, candidates, and money. What voters want, whether politicians will run on AI and sponsor legislation once in office, who is spending to influence it, and the first signs of AI in the 2028 presidential race.

5. The first federal law. 2027 may bring the first meaningful federal AI law, or Congress may let the moment pass. The class debates what it should look like; the instructor asks questions and pushes no policy. This is a chance to bring together all the information and tools the courses have taught.

Sessions to be recorded and made available only to enrolled members. Slides are distributed by individual request to the instructors, not as an automatic policy.

This course is designed to follow, and build on, the instructor's OLLI course Thinking About AI. By the time this course begins, well over 100 people will have taken that course.