

INST 424 - AI Literacy for Community Empowerment Project Description

About the Course

The AI Literacy for Community Empowerment course, offered by the College of Information (INFO) at the University of Maryland (UMD) is for INFO undergraduate students to co-design AI literacy learning experiences with libraries, non-profits, community organizations and educational institutions, to address existing and current community AI needs.

Students in this course will collaborate with community partners to create practical AI Literacy programs, services, lesson plans, workshops, training sessions, community programs, facilitator guides or digital learning resources that will be implemented in communities and shared through the [Marylanders Online](#) curriculum repository. The final deliverables students submit to their community partners may vary from project to project and will be determined through conversations with the community partner and the outcomes of co-design sessions.

Students' Responsibilities:

In small groups, students will:

- Conduct a participatory needs assessment to learn and understand the community the community partner serves
- Identify AI literacy challenges and opportunities within the community
- Develop the appropriate learning experiences (such as programs, services, training, guide, etc.) that can be used to address the problem identified, using co-design methods with the community partner and members
- Collect feedback from the community partner/members, implement feedback and deliver the solution to address the identified challenge.

Community Partner Responsibilities:

Community partners in this project will:

- Identify and describe actual AI literacy related learning needs or a challenge within the community or population served by the community organization.
- Participate in one or more interviews with the students to review the concepts and prototypes during early and later stages of the project.
- Offer timely and constructive feedback on draft materials, learning activities and other project deliverables to help ensure that they are relevant, practical and responsive to the community's needs.
- Review and validate the final projects and learning experience to ensure students develop inclusive and effective projects.

Community partners who wish to propose a project are invited to [complete this form](#). A member of the teaching team will be in touch to begin the process of scoping the project.

Questions can be directed to Dr. Mega Subramaniam (mmsubram@umd.edu), a professor at INFO who will serve as the instructor for this course, or to Nyakundi Nyambane (nyakundi@umd.edu), who will serve as the teaching assistant.