

# AI: Two Truths and a Lie

Spring Quarter 2026, 16 credits

8 Credits in Communication and Information Studies

8 Credits in Digital Media Practices

## Weekly schedule

WEEKEND	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Reading Writing Projects Personal Study Time	 <b>5 HOURS</b> COM 323 CLASS 9 AM - 12 PM & 1 PM - 3 PM	 <b>6 HOURS</b> Writing & Projects	 <b>3 HOURS</b> COM 323 CLASS 9 AM - 12 PM Afternoon Writing Time	 <b>6 HOURS</b> Writing & Projects	 <b>7 HOURS</b> COM 323 Class 9 AM - 12 PM  1 PM - 5 PM Project Labs & Workshops

I used CoPilot to make the above. Was this an appropriate use of generative AI or a waste of my time and Microsoft compute power? Let's discuss. The point of the above: we meet in person Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays and a body of work is required on your own time.

## Overview

In the popular parlor game “two truths and a lie” each participant makes three statements only two of which are true; the other participants must discern which statement is a lie. You score points by fooling others or by not being fooled.

This offering ramps up the premise of the game to ten weeks of playful inquiry about belief and persuasion, with a goal of increasing everyone's ability to recognize facts, evaluate evidence, identify fakes, and persuade your audience in the context of rapidly changing AI technologies.

Is it possible to disentangle AIs from the profit and surveillance logics of the business model producing them, and by so disentangling to discover in AI not an “efficiency” that exploits labor and degrades the environment but instead a plenitude that generates new practices consistent with human flourishing?

In exploring that question, you will elevate your ability to facilitate critical conversations about Artificial Intelligence.

## Instructor

Greg Mullins, available via email at mullinsg and in person in COM 303B.

## Students

Registration priority: first- and second-year students.

## What will we do?

We will do many of the things one expects to do in college (read, write, think, discuss, disagree, agree, read some more, talk some more, become frustrated with how complicated AI technologies are, and finish the quarter smarter than we started).

We will also do some unusual things, such as disappearing in a green screen and creating Shrines to Truth. We will spend an unusual amount of time thinking deeply about why anybody believes anything. We will emerge better prepared than the average person to recognize and disbelieve in disinformation. We will practice being human.

## Tell me more about the writing part. Is there a lot of writing?

Yes. Five essays of about 750 words each plus shorter assignments.

## Tell me about the reading.

Kim, Nancy S. *The Psychology of Belief*. London, New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023.

Van Der Linden, Sander. *Foolproof: Why Misinformation Infects Our Minds and How to Build Immunity*. New York: Norton, 2023.

That probably sounds like a slim amount of reading for a 16-credit program, but don't be deceived! Some of it is quite scholarly and might require reading slowly or reading twice. Also, there will be short readings, films, podcast episodes, Ted Talks, guest lectures, and other mechanisms to get information on the table for you to think, talk, and write about.

## What do I have to do to earn full credit?

Show up, meet the deadlines, do the work. Attendance is mandatory. Please note that we start at 9am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.