UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence and robotics

2526-102R-16

Title

Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence and robotics

Teacher

Edoardo Datteri, Daniela Besozzi, Chiara Gallese, Marco Salvatore Nobile

Language

English

Short description

Contemporary research in artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics raises a multitude of unique philosophical questions and dilemmas. While these issues are urgent and pressing, they are often overlooked or only superficially addressed in science and technology courses. For example, can AI systems have a mind and develop consciousness? What does it mean for AI systems to learn? What data do AI systems use, and how do they use it, to generate predictive models? What kind of knowledge can predictive models provide about the world, and how can this knowledge be justified? Can robotic models of living organisms be used as experimental tools in the life sciences? What kind of explanations should explainable AI systems provide? How can we trust AI and robotic systems? How can we ethically evaluate their behaviour and assign responsibility for their actions? These

questions pertain to different branches of philosophy, including epistemology, the philosophy of science, and moral philosophy. They are also at the centre of public debate on AI and robotics. This course will address these issues and others that, in various ways, revolve around the question of whether AI systems can have a mind. The highly interactive lessons are intended for doctoral students from fields other than philosophy who do not have a philosophical background.

Target audience

PhD students from all of UNIMIB's doctoral programmes.

Maximum number of participans

30

Assessment method

The assessment will be based on a short reflective and metacognitive text (one page at most) written after the last lesson. In this text, students will be asked to reflect on what they have learnt during the course.

CFU / Hours

1 / 12

Teaching period and mode

January 8th, 2026, 15:00 - 18:00 U6-25
Can machines have a mind?
Lecturer: Prof. Edoardo Datteri (University of Milano-Bicocca)

January 14th, 2026, 14:00 - 17:00 U6-01D
Machines don't have a mind
Lecturer: Prof. Daniela Besozzi (University of Milano-Bicocca)

January 21th, 2026, 14:00 - 17:00 U6-01D
Mind machines even if they don't have a mind
Lecturer: Dr. Chiara Gallese (University of Tilburg)

January 28th, 2026, 14:00 - 17:00 U6-01D
When machines pretend they do have a mind
Lecturer: Prof. Marco S. Nobile (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)

course registration on “Segreterie online”: from 19/12/2025 to 06/01/2026

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION