Course Policy on using Generative AI in Advanced Research Writing (Fall 2023)

The course Advanced Research Writing aims to teach advanced academic writing skills to the (academic) writers of the future. As teachers, we have no doubt that the writers of the future will do their writing supported by AI technology. Therefore, we also believe that today's students need to learn and practice using AI technology critically and responsibly in their writing.

Generative AI technology and the advantages, disadvantages and risks of using AI tools like ChatGPT will be topics for discussion in this course. Moreover, students are permitted to use generative AI technology in working on their writing projects for this course, provided they adhere to certain rules and guidelines, as outlined in this document and to be discussed further in class.

Rules & Guidelines

1. Students may use generative AI technology to support their writing, in ways similar to how internet search engines, grammar and spell checkers, and (online) dictionaries and thesauruses are used.
2. Students may use generative AI as a source of information and to generate content, as long as they use the tool as an assistant, not an author. Instructions on how to do this are provided further down this document.
3. If students use generative AI tools, they must provide full transparency about how they use them. Instructions on how to do this are provided further down this document.
4. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the advantages as well as disadvantages and potential risks of using generative AI. These topics will also be discussed in class.
5. Students who make use of generative AI tools in their writing assignments remain fully responsible for the texts they submit.
6. The "Regulations governing fraud and plagiarism" (AS&P, Appendix 2) apply to any assignment submitted in the course, written with the help of generative AI or not.
7. These Rules and Guidelines apply exclusively to the course Advanced Research Writing. In other contexts, such as the Capstone, students should contact their teacher or supervisor for permission and guidelines on the use of generative AI tools.

How do you use generative AI as an assistant, not an author?

Generative AI can perform and can even take over certain tasks for you, but you should remain in charge of the overall writing and thinking processes at all times. This means you need to use generative AI critically and responsibly. Do not take over information generated by generative AI tools unthinkingly. And do not incorporate generated output into your text immediately and without acknowledgments. In short, be smart, not lazy.

University of Amsterdam

VU Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

How can you offer complete transparency about your use of generative AI?

When you use generative AI technologies such as ChatGPT as a source of information, you should treat them like any other source of information you use in your academic writing. Thus, when you incorporate information presented to you by a chatbot, you must summarize, paraphrase, and/or quote it, attribute it clearly and provide a correct citation. (The technical details will be discussed more fully in class). Do note, however, that you should critically evaluate the quality and reliability of the information you have generated, just as you would with other forms and sources of information.

When you use generative AI to brainstorm ideas, to grammar-check, style-check, and/or enhance your writing, to generate content (including outlines, larger sections of text, or bibliographies), or any other uses, you should explain your approach clearly and in sufficient detail. You can do so, for instance, in an explanatory footnote or as part of your methodology section. Additionally, you are required to save and provide full access to your complete chat history for your project. If you use ChatGPT, for example, you can give access by clicking on the "share chat" button and pasting the link in your methodology section or explanatory footnote.

Lotte Tavecchio & Joost Krijnen
Course Coordinators – Advanced Research Writing
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l.m.tavecchio@auc.nl
f.j.krijnen@auc.nl