

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY
Department of Governance and Global Studies

STUDIO COURSE

Artificial Intelligence and Public Policy

Detailed Course Outline, Readings, Assignments & Recommended Media

Course Instructor	Imdad Hussain, PhD (MIT Fellow)
Program Fee	PKR 45,000
Start Date	2nd July 2026
Duration	16 Weeks
Location	ITU, Arfa Software Technology Park, 6th Floor
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Course Description

This studio course invites students to think critically, creatively, and imaginatively about important questions in Pakistani AI policy. Through experiments, observations, and research, students explore both the opportunities and risks of AI in governance and society. Across sixteen weeks, the studio builds the skills needed to design and develop AI policy solutions for Pakistan — moving from critique to constructive proposal.

The course is organized around the Ten Features of AI Policy in Pakistan (see below), each treated as a site of analysis rather than a settled answer. Students alternate between seminar-style reading discussion, hands-on studio exercises, independent fieldwork, and design critique — the same rhythm used in architecture and design studios, applied here to policy problems.

Learning Objectives

- Identify visible and invisible ways AI shapes public life in Pakistan.
- Apply critical, speculative, and phenomenological methods to AI policy questions.
- Practice studio tools: thought experiments, scenario building, simulation, and observation.
- Frame original questions and recognize AI blind spots in existing policy.
- Contribute to responsible and sensible use of AI in Pakistan.
- Engage with the Ten Features of AI Policy as sites of analysis.

Studio Methodology

- Studio-based, hands-on learning.
- Real-world AI policy exploration.
- Experimentation and scenario building.
- Critical thinking and collaborative inquiry.
- Reflection, creativity, and innovation.
- Designing responsible AI policy solutions.

The Ten Features of AI Policy in Pakistan — Quick Reference

Each feature anchors one studio week (Weeks 2–11) and recurs as a lens during fieldwork, synthesis, and the final exhibition.

#	Feature
1	Challenges of Inclusion & National Vision
2	Challenges of Vicarious Living
3	Challenges of Philosophy & Local Knowledge
4	Challenges of Compulsory AI Curriculum

#	Feature
5	Challenges of Chatbot Authority
6	Challenges of Deceptive Intelligence
7	Challenges of Closing Over AI Use in Government
8	Challenges of Securing Society
9	Challenges of Celebrating AI as a Fixer
10	Challenges of the Tyranny of a Missing National Vision

16-Week Schedule at a Glance

Week	Focus
1	Studio Orientation — What Is AI Policy, and Why a Studio?
2	Feature 1 — Challenges of Inclusion & National Vision
3	Feature 2 — Challenges of Vicarious Living
4	Feature 3 — Challenges of Philosophy & Local Knowledge
5	Feature 4 — Challenges of Compulsory AI Curriculum
6	Feature 5 — Challenges of Chatbot Authority
7	Feature 6 — Challenges of Deceptive Intelligence
8	Feature 7 — Challenges of Closing Over AI Use in Government
9	Feature 8 — Challenges of Securing Society
10	Feature 9 — Challenges of Celebrating AI as a Fixer
11	Feature 10 — Challenges of the Tyranny of a Missing National Vision
12	Studio Critique I — Midpoint Review & Peer Feedback
13	Independent Fieldwork — Site Visits, Interviews, Observation
14	Synthesis Studio — Building the Policy Brief & Prototype
15	Final Studio Exhibition
16	Reflection & Wrap-Up

Detailed Weekly Course Outline

Week 1: Studio Orientation — What Is AI Policy, and Why a Studio?

Key question: What does it mean to study AI “as a studio,” and why might Pakistan need its own AI-policy imagination rather than an imported one?

Readings:

- Course syllabus and this outline; the brochure’s Ten Features as a shared vocabulary for the term.
- Government of Pakistan, Ministry of IT & Telecommunication, National Artificial Intelligence Policy – 2025 — Executive Summary and Four Pillars.
- Donald Schön, *The Reflective Practitioner* (1983), Chapter 1 — on studio-based, reflective learning.

Studio activity: Studio walkthrough; mapping personal, everyday encounters with AI in Pakistan; introduction to the Ten Features as analytic lenses; formation of fieldwork teams.

Recommended viewing: Any reputable short AI-explainer primer (e.g., a TED-Ed style explainer) for students with limited technical background — optional, pre-studio warm-up only.

Deliverable: Studio Journal #0 — “An AI Autobiography”: where does AI already touch your life in Pakistan?

Week 2: Feature 1 — Challenges of Inclusion & National Vision

Key question: Whose Pakistan does a national AI vision imagine — and who is designed out of it (rural users, women, low-literacy citizens, persons with disabilities)?

Readings:

- Government of Pakistan, Ministry of IT & Telecommunication, National Artificial Intelligence Policy – 2025 — Pillar 2, “Enabling AI through Awareness & Readiness”
- Virginia Eubanks, *Automating Inequality* (2018), Introduction and Chapter 1
- Owais Anwar Golra, “Pakistan: Building a Robust, Resilient Digital Ecosystem,” International Science Council (2025)

Studio activity: Mapping lab — plot each of the Ten Features against Pakistan’s rural/urban, gender, and class divides on a large studio wall-chart.

Recommended TED Talk: Joy Buolamwini, “How I’m Fighting Bias in Algorithms”

Deliverable: Studio Journal #1

Week 3: Feature 2 — Challenges of Vicarious Living

Key question: When algorithmic feeds and AI companions curate experience for us, what happens to first-hand, lived life — especially for young people online in Pakistan?

Readings:

- Sherry Turkle, *Alone Together* (2011), Part II
- Nick Couldry & Ulises A. Mejias, *The Costs of Connection* (2019), Chapter 1

Studio activity: Phenomenological exercise — a 24-hour ‘algorithm fast’ (no recommended feeds); journal the felt difference in real time.

Recommended Film: Her (2013, dir. Spike Jonze)

Deliverable: Studio Journal #2

Week 4: Feature 3 — Challenges of Philosophy & Local Knowledge

Key question: Can AI systems trained mostly on global, English-language data speak to Pakistani ways of knowing — its languages, oral traditions, and indigenous expertise?

Readings:

- Abeba Birhane, “Algorithmic Colonization of Africa,” SCRIPTed (2020)
- Arturo Escobar, Designs for the Pluriverse (2018), Chapter 1

Studio activity: Speculative design sprint — redesign a chatbot so it is grounded in a local epistemology (e.g., a Sindhi or Pashto proverb-based advisor).

Recommended Documentary: iHuman (2019, dir. Tonje Hessen Schei)

Deliverable: Studio Journal #3

Week 5: Feature 4 — Challenges of Compulsory AI Curriculum

Key question: What is gained, and what is lost, when AI literacy becomes compulsory in Pakistani classrooms?

Readings:

- UNESCO, AI and Education: Guidance for Policy-makers (2021)
- S. Nazeer & Y. Gil, “Embracing Artificial Intelligence Challenges for Public Sector Organizations in Pakistan,” Journal of Contemporary Studies, 12(1) (2023)

Studio activity: Curriculum audit — examine a real Pakistani school or university AI syllabus for its hidden assumptions about access, language, and ability.

Recommended TED Talk: Sal Khan, “How AI Could Save (Not Destroy) Education”

Deliverable: Studio Journal #4

Week 6: Feature 5 — Challenges of Chatbot Authority

Key question: Why might a citizen trust a government chatbot more readily than a human civil servant — and should they?

Readings:

- Joseph Weizenbaum, Computer Power and Human Reason (1976), Chapter 7, “ELIZA”
- Sheila Jasanoff, “Technologies of Humility,” Nature, 450 (2007)

Studio activity: Roleplay simulation — interrogate a mock government chatbot built for a NADRA or benefits-disbursement service; log where it overstates its own authority.

Recommended TED Talk: Yejin Choi, “Why AI Is Incredibly Smart — and Shockingly Stupid”

Deliverable: Studio Journal #5; fieldwork teams finalize their AI-deployment case

Week 7: Feature 6 — Challenges of Deceptive Intelligence

Key question: How do deepfakes, synthetic voices, and ‘hallucinating’ models destabilize public trust in Pakistan’s information environment?

Readings:

- Kate Crawford & Vladan Joler, “Anatomy of an AI System” (2018)
- Danielle Citron & Robert Chesney, “Deep Fakes: A Looming Challenge for Privacy, Democracy, and National Security,” *California Law Review*, 107 (2019)

Studio activity: Detect-the-fake lab — students analyze paired real and AI-generated media samples and document what gave the fakes away.

Recommended Documentary: *Coded Bias* (2020, dir. Shalini Kantayya)

Deliverable: Studio Journal #6

Week 8: Feature 7 — Challenges of Closing Over AI Use in Government

Key question: When government agencies adopt AI quietly and without disclosure, what happens to public accountability?

Readings:

- Frank Pasquale, *The Black Box Society* (2015), Introduction and Chapter 1
- Islamabad Policy Research Institute, “Policy Analysis: Decoding Pakistan’s National AI Policy 2023” (July 2023)

Studio activity: Right-to-information simulation — draft a formal information request about an AI system used by a Pakistani public agency.

Recommended TED Talk: Cathy O’Neil, “The Era of Blind Faith in Big Data Must End”

Deliverable: Midpoint Policy Memo draft due

Week 9: Feature 8 — Challenges of Securing Society

Key question: Where is the line between AI-enabled public safety (e.g., Safe City camera networks) and the erosion of civil liberties?

Readings:

- Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism* (2019), Chapter 3
- Digital Rights Foundation Pakistan, latest annual report on digital rights and surveillance

Studio activity: Stakeholder debate — citizens, police, and technologists argue the ethics of a facial-recognition rollout in a Pakistani city.

Recommended Documentary: *Citizenfour* (2014, dir. Laura Poitras)

Deliverable: Studio Journal #7

Week 10: Feature 9 — Challenges of Celebrating AI as a Fixer

Key question: What deeper structural problems — poverty, corruption, climate stress — get quietly set aside when AI is sold as a ready-made fix?

Readings:

- Evgeny Morozov, *To Save Everything, Click Here* (2013), Chapter 1, “Solutionism and Its Discontents”
- Strafasia, “Pakistan’s Draft AI Policy: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Implementation Challenges” (2024)

Studio activity: Solutionism audit — take a publicized ‘AI for good’ pilot in Pakistan and stress-test its claims against Morozov’s critique.

Recommended TED Talk: Kai-Fu Lee, “How AI Can Save Our Humanity” (read against Morozov, not as endorsement)

Deliverable: Studio Journal #8

Week 11: Feature 10 — Challenges of the Tyranny of a Missing National Vision

Key question: After nine features of risk and unevenness, what would a coherent, locally rooted Pakistani AI vision actually require?

Readings:

- Centre for Strategic and Contemporary Research, “Pakistan’s Draft National AI Policy Is a Hodgepodge of Technospeak” (2024)
- Stuart Russell, *Human Compatible* (2019), Chapter 1

Studio activity: Vision workshop — teams draft a one-page alternative national AI vision statement for Pakistan and pin it up for class critique.

Recommended TED Talk: Stuart Russell, “3 Principles for Creating Safer AI”

Deliverable: Final Studio Journal (#9); independent fieldwork report due

Week 12: Studio Critique I — Midpoint Review & Peer Feedback

Format: Each fieldwork team pins up its emerging findings and a working policy question. Critique follows a “rounds” format: description, then analysis, then recommendation — instructor and peers respond in that order.

Deliverable: Critique participation; a one-paragraph revised problem statement submitted by end of week.

Week 13: Independent Fieldwork — Site Visits, Interviews, Observation

Format: No fixed classroom session. Teams conduct site visits, interviews, or structured observation tied to a real AI deployment in Pakistan (for example, a bank or telecom chatbot, an e-Rozgaar/digital-skills program, a Safe City camera network, an agricultural-extension app, or a NADRA biometric service desk). Instructor holds rotating office-hour check-ins.

Deliverable: Fieldwork notes and raw data log (interview transcripts, photos with consent, observation memos).

Week 14: Synthesis Studio — Building the Policy Brief & Prototype

Format: Teams translate their Ten Features analysis and fieldwork into a final policy brief and a companion prototype or scenario artifact (a mock interface, a policy simulation, a scenario storyboard, or a short scripted scene).

Deliverable: Draft final project submitted for instructor feedback.

Week 15: Final Studio Exhibition

Format: Public exhibition and pitch of final projects to an invited panel (ITU faculty, and where possible practitioners from MoITT, NCAI, or civil-society digital-rights groups).

Deliverable: Final Studio Project (Policy Brief + Prototype) and Exhibition Presentation.

Week 16: Reflection & Wrap-Up

Format: Closing circle: which blind spots did you start the term with, and which remain? Course evaluation and forward-looking discussion on continuing the work beyond the studio.

Deliverable: Final Reflection Essay.

Student Assignments

Assignments build cumulatively: weekly journals feed the fieldwork report, which feeds the final policy brief and prototype, which is presented at the exhibition and digested in the closing reflection.

1. Studio Journals (Weeks 1–11) — 20%

- Ten short entries (150–250 words each), one per studio week, responding to that week’s key question and at least one assigned reading.
- Graded for engagement and specificity, not for adopting a particular position.

2. Independent Fieldwork Case Study Report (due Week 13) — 15%

- In teams of 3–4, document a real AI deployment in Pakistan through interviews, observation, or document analysis.
- Report should identify which of the Ten Features the case study illustrates, and where it falls short of the National AI Policy’s own stated aims.

3. Midpoint Policy Memo & Critique I (drafted Week 8, presented Week 12) — 20%

- A 2–3 page policy memo proposing an early position on the team’s chosen AI-policy problem.
- Presented and defended in a structured studio critique; revised problem statement submitted afterward.

4. Final Studio Project — Policy Brief & Prototype (Weeks 14–15) — 30%

- A polished policy brief (6–8 pages) addressing one or more of the Ten Features in the Pakistani context, with concrete, feasible recommendations.
- A companion prototype or scenario artifact that makes the policy proposal tangible: a mock interface, an interactive scenario, a simulation, a short film, or a comic-strip storyboard.

5. Final Exhibition Presentation (Week 15) — 10%

- A 10–12 minute public pitch of the policy brief and prototype to a panel, followed by Q&A.

6. Final Reflection Essay (Week 16) — 5%

- A 1,000–1,200 word individual essay on how the studio changed (or did not change) the student’s view of AI in Pakistani public life, naming at least one blind spot they no longer hold.

Grading Summary

Component	Weight
Studio Journals	20%
Fieldwork Case Study Report	15%
Midpoint Policy Memo & Critique I	20%

Component	Weight
Final Policy Brief & Prototype	30%
Final Exhibition Presentation	10%
Final Reflection Essay	5%

Recommended Books

Core Texts (assigned in excerpts across the term)

- Government of Pakistan, Ministry of IT & Telecommunication — National Artificial Intelligence Policy – 2025 (primary policy document for the course).
- Virginia Eubanks — Automating Inequality (St. Martin's Press, 2018).
- Frank Pasquale — The Black Box Society (Harvard University Press, 2015).
- Cathy O'Neil — Weapons of Math Destruction (Crown, 2016).
- Evgeny Morozov — To Save Everything, Click Here (PublicAffairs, 2013).
- Shoshana Zuboff — The Age of Surveillance Capitalism (PublicAffairs, 2019).
- Kate Crawford — Atlas of AI (Yale University Press, 2021).
- Sherry Turkle — Alone Together (Basic Books, 2011).
- Arturo Escobar — Designs for the Pluriverse (Duke University Press, 2018).
- Joseph Weizenbaum — Computer Power and Human Reason (W.H. Freeman, 1976).

Further/Supplementary Reading

- Ruha Benjamin — Race After Technology (Polity, 2019).
- Stuart Russell — Human Compatible (Viking, 2019).
- Brian Christian — The Alignment Problem (W.W. Norton, 2020).
- Meredith Broussard — More Than a Glitch (MIT Press, 2023).
- Nick Couldry & Ulises A. Mejias — The Costs of Connection (Stanford University Press, 2019).
- Yuval Noah Harari — Homo Deus (Harvill Secker, 2016) — for speculative-method discussions.

Pakistan-Specific Policy & Scholarly Readings

- Government of Pakistan, Ministry of IT & Telecommunication — Digital Pakistan: Draft National Artificial Intelligence Policy (2023 consultation draft).
- Islamabad Policy Research Institute — “Policy Analysis: Decoding Pakistan’s National AI Policy 2023” (July 2023).
- Centre for Strategic and Contemporary Research — “Pakistan’s Draft National AI Policy Is a Hodgepodge of Technospeak” (2024).
- Strafasia — “Pakistan’s Draft AI Policy: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Implementation Challenges” (2024).
- Owais Anwar Golra — “Pakistan: Building a Robust, Resilient Digital Ecosystem,” International Science Council (2025).
- S. Nazeer & Y. Gil — “Embracing Artificial Intelligence Challenges for Public Sector Organizations in Pakistan,” Journal of Contemporary Studies, 12(1) (2023).
- Digital Rights Foundation Pakistan — latest annual reports on digital rights, data protection, and surveillance.

Recommended Films & Documentaries

Title	Year / Director	Why it fits the studio
Her	2013, dir. Spike Jonze	A fictional exploration of an AI companion and the blurred line between mediated and lived intimacy — anchors the Vicarious Living week.
iHuman	2019, dir. Tonje Hessen Schei	A documentary meditation on AI’s concentration of power and what it means for human agency and local knowledge.
Coded Bias	2020, dir. Shalini Kantayya	Follows researcher Joy Buolamwini’s work on facial-recognition bias — central to the Deceptive Intelligence week.
Citizenfour	2014, dir. Laura Poitras	An Academy Award–winning account of mass-surveillance disclosures, useful for the Securing Society week.
The Social Dilemma	2020, dir. Jeff Orlowski	A widely discussed documentary on recommendation systems and attention, useful as optional further viewing.
The Great Hack	2019, dir. Karim Amer & Jehane Noujaim	Covers the Cambridge Analytica data-use controversy; optional further viewing for the Securing Society or Closing-Over weeks.
AlphaGo	2017, dir. Greg Kohs	A documentary on DeepMind’s Go-playing system; optional viewing for discussions of AI capability versus AI policy hype.

Recommended TED Talks

Speaker	Talk	Pairs With
Joy Buolamwini	“How I’m Fighting Bias in Algorithms”	Inclusion & National Vision
Sal Khan	“How AI Could Save (Not Destroy) Education”	Compulsory AI Curriculum
Yejin Choi	“Why AI Is Incredibly Smart — and Shockingly Stupid”	Chatbot Authority
Cathy O’Neil	“The Era of Blind Faith in Big Data Must End”	Closing Over AI Use in Government
Kai-Fu Lee	“How AI Can Save Our Humanity”	Celebrating AI as a Fixer (paired critically)
Stuart Russell	“3 Principles for Creating Safer AI”	Tyranny of a Missing National Vision
Zeynep Tufekci	“We’re Building a Dystopia Just to Make People Click on Ads”	Optional — Securing Society / Deceptive Intelligence

Note on sourcing: *Pakistan-specific policy citations above are drawn from publicly available government and policy-analysis sources current as of mid-2026; instructors should verify the latest version of the National AI Policy and any successor documents before each cohort, as Pakistani AI governance is still actively evolving.*