Claremont Graduate University

Transdisciplinary Studies

TNDY 331. GenAI for Graduate Success

Module 1, Summer 2026

Contact Information

Class Instructor:

Robert Klitgaard, University Professor

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Instructor Feedback and Communication

The best way to get in touch with us is via email. We will do our best to respond to messages within two days.

Class Schedule

- Module start/end dates: June 2 to 25, 2026
- Meeting day, time: Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 – 6:50 pm
- Class Location: Online.

Course Description

Generative AI (GenAI) is transforming graduate education. TNDY 331 is your gateway to becoming adept and inventive with GenAI. The course does teach about prompting and context engineering, about customizing your AI tools, and about understanding their limitations and misuses. But the larger aim is older and deeper: to recall why we pursue graduate study at all, and to ask how GenAI might help us live up to those noble goals. Graduate schools, learned societies, and professional associations converge on six enduring objectives: mastery of our field, integrity and ethics, research skills,

collaboration, communication, and developing our careers and the habit of life-long learning. This course culls that wisdom, adds the professor's take on how to reach those goals, and then shows how GenAI can augment the effort.

- 2 credit hours

Background Preparation (Prerequisites)

Students are welcome from throughout CGU.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to leverage GenAI to:

1. **Master core tools and knowledge in your field.**

   Use ChatGPT and NotebookLM as personal tutors, tailored to your interests and experience. Employ these tools to conduct literature reviews, analyze data, and interpret images and graphics.

2. **Engage critically and constructively with foundational works in your discipline.**

   Skillfully evaluate and interact with the best of what has been thought, said, and discovered in your chosen area.

3. **"Think like an expert" in your profession or discipline.**

   Develop the ability to view, interpret, and communicate information using the methods, perspectives, and language specific to your field.

4. **Collaborate effectively with both human colleagues and GenAI tools.**

   Learn how to partner productively and creatively with diverse teammates and AI agents.

5. **Communicate your findings clearly and persuasively to varied audiences.**

   Present complex ideas and research results in ways that resonate, persuade, and have meaningful impact.

6. **Make informed academic and professional decisions.**

   Thoughtfully use GenAI to explore, evaluate, and clarify paths for your career and academic goals.

Expectations and Logistics

Claremont Graduate University is pleased to provide you with full access to ChatGPT Edu for this course. You will receive setup instructions ahead of time so you can arrive at our first session on June 2 ready to engage fully. Additionally, we will use NotebookLM, a free resource, and set it up together in class.

The success of this hands-on seminar is your careful preparation and enthusiastic participation. If for a given class you are unable to do the reading and prepare the assignment, please email Prof. Klitgaard and the teaching assistants in advance.

Grading Plan

We will use portfolio grading, to be explained in detail in class.

Week-by-Week Schedule

Suggested reading times are indicated in parentheses.

* Readings marked with an asterisk are optional.

June 2: Getting Started

Assigned reading before this class:

Ker Than, "'The most exciting time to be a social scientist.'" *Stanford Report*, April 25, 2026. https://news.stanford.edu/stories/2026/04/ai-social-science-empirical-research (15 minutes)

Robert Klitgaard and ChatGPT, *Graduate School Meets Generative AI: What's Happening, Why You Should Care, and How to Respond*. Amazon KDP Books. September 2025. Preface and Anti-Preface and Part I "What's Happening" (Chapters 1 and 2). https://www.amazon.com/Graduate-School-Meets-Generative-Happening-ebook/dp/B0G29XXNT4 (1.5 hours) Also free download here: https://robertklitgaard.com/grad-school-%26-genai

Outline:

Introduction to the course and to each other.

What is "success" in graduate education, given the GenAI revolution?

Setting up ChatGPT Edu and NotebookLM: your Notebook for this course is https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/28db6da0-89d7-431d-8452-dcfa3442a7da/preview

Prompting and context engineering

June 4: Your Tutor

Assigned work before this class:

Anthropic, "AI Fluency: Framework and Foundations" (2025). This short course uses the GenAI tool "Claude," which is similar to ChatGPT. You will receive a certificate for completing it! https://www.anthropic.com/ai-fluency (4 hours)

Listen to NotebookLM, "Will AI Hollow Out Graduate Scholars?" (22 minutes)

Watch Andy Stapleton, "NotebookLM for Academics: Full Setup & Use Cases," May 2026. https://youtu.be/LSqkF4ypDU0?si=FM6S12n_eJAuDvj- (15 minutes)

Outline:

Discuss Anthropic course "AI Fluency"

Creating your tutor for a concept or topic

Learning how to think like an expert in your field

NotebookLM and its uses (including customized study guides)

June 9: Dealing with Inaccuracy and Biases

Assignment before this class:

Robert Klitgaard, *The Culture and Development Manifesto*, Oxford University Press, 2021, chapter 4, "Cultures Approaching Culture." On Canvas. (1 hour)

Outline:

Hallucinations, "bullshit," inaccuracies, and biases

What is "bias"? Many definitions.

Biases in GenAI and elsewhere

Using GenAI to understand and deal with biases (or "takes"). Three examples:

1. Classic political "takes" on issues: Conservative, Liberal, Professional, Radical
2. Classic disciplinary "takes" using five of the disciplines represented in the students in this course.
3. Cultural "takes"

June 11: Getting Started on Research

Assignment before this class:

Read James K. Sebenius, "Assess, Don't Assume, Part I: Etiquette and National Culture in Negotiation," Harvard Business School Working Paper 10-048, 2009. https://www.hbs.edu/ris/Publication%20Files/10-048.pdf (1½ hours)

Engage with a cross-cultural negotiation exercise (prompts to be provided on June 9) (1¼ hours). Be prepared to discuss in class what you learned.

Listen to or read Robert Klitgaard, *Prevail: How to Face Upheavals and Make Big Choices with the Help of Heroes*, Wipf and Stock, 2022, chapter 6 "Big Insights." On Canvas. (Audio: under 45 minutes)

Outline:

Discuss what you learned from the cross-cultural negotiation exercise

Managing big insights

What are the research questions? What if you could know *anything*? The Fact Machine prompt.

Applying the C,L,P,R and Disciplinary prompts from class on June 9

Reviewing "the literature."

Deep engagement with sources

June 16: Co-Intelligence

Assignment before this class:

Browse OpenAI Deep Research in Cahoots with Robert Klitgaard, *Co-Intelligence Applied: Thirteen Examples of How Generative AI Is Transforming Our World—And Ourselves.* Amazon Kindle KDP Books, 2025. Read the preface and introduction. Listen to the NotebookLM podcast and read the short book review by Gemini. Choose one chapter that interests you and skim it. https://robertklitgaard.com/co-intelligence-applied-1 (Total time: 2 hours)

Outline:

Discuss *Co-Intelligence Applied*

How to prompt Deep Research.

Examples of using Deep Research in your field

June 18: Collaboration

Assignment before this class:

"Co-Design Your Research Plan with ChatGPT" (handout in class and on Canvas). Under 2½ hours.

Outline:

The growing importance of collaboration in research and in the professions

Convening: how to enable collaboration across boundaries

How GenAI can help diverse partners understand data

How GenAI can help create engaging case studies

An exercise in designing a convening

June 23: Communicating Your Results

Assignment before this class:

The RAND Corporation, "Guidelines for Preparing Briefings." 1996. https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/tr/pdf/ADA317235.pdf (45 minutes).

Watch Larry McEnerney, “The Craft of Writing Effectively,” 2014. https://youtu.be/vtIzMaLkCaM?si=MCvfnfI6g7vv93D6 (1½ hours).

Please bring to class a recent academic article you found dense but valuable (pdf format)

Outline:

Contrast *scientific research* and *superb scholarship* with *advocacy*. You can make a scientific or scholarly argument, but you must be fair, and you must consider alternative arguments.

Understanding your audience (Larry McEnerney)

Prompt applying his ideas to a leading paper in your field

Understanding your audience (RAND briefings)

Example of preparing the same research product for different audiences

Editing your work

Ethical issues with GenAI as co-creator

June 25: GenAI and Your Career

Assignment before this class:

Listen to or read Robert Klitgaard, *Prevail: How to Face Upheavals and Make Big Choices with the Help of Heroes*, Wipf and Stock, 2022, chapter 5 “Calling, or Purpose.” On Canvas. (Audio: under 45 minutes.)

Engage with “Your Career Counselor” (prompt to be provided on June 23) (1½ hours). Be prepared to discuss in class what you learned.

Outline:

Discuss “Your Career Counselor”

Purpose and calling, before and after the AI revolution

Reflect on “GenAI and Graduate Success”