

AI Terminology Reference

Every term covered — or referenced — in this course. Take this home.

WHERE KEY				
P1	Part 1 — covered in class	P2	Part 2 — covered in class	REF Reference / supplementary

Understanding the Landscape — Three Responses		
TERM	PLAIN ENGLISH DEFINITION	WHERE
AI Panic / AI Doomism	Fear-driven responses to AI — assuming the worst, banning everything, retreating from understanding. Leads to isolation from the people who need our guidance.	P1
AI Hype	Uncritical enthusiasm for AI — assuming it fixes everything, using it for everything. Ignores real risks and real people.	P1
Biblical Posture	Dennis's term for the faithful middle: eyes open, engaging wisely, choosing discernment over reaction. Presence — not avoidance. Represented by Teal throughout this course.	P1

How AI Actually Works		
TERM	PLAIN ENGLISH DEFINITION	WHERE
Large Language Model (LLM)	The type of AI behind ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and Copilot. Trained on billions of words to predict what text should come next. Not a search engine. Not a brain.	P1
Generative AI	Any AI that produces new content — text, images, audio, video, or code — rather than just searching or categorizing.	P1
Pattern-Matcher	Dennis's plain-English description of AI. It learned to predict words by reading billions of documents — not by thinking, understanding, or living.	P1
Training	How the model was built — engineers fed it billions of pages. It read once, learned patterns, then stopped. This happened before you ever opened the app.	P1
Inference	What happens every time you type a question. The model predicts — one word at a time — the most helpful response based on its training. No lookup. No guarantee.	P1
Training Cutoff / Knowledge Cutoff	The date the model's training ended. It genuinely does not know what happened after that date — and it may not volunteer that warning.	P1

Six Things Every User Should Know — Failure Modes		
TERM	PLAIN ENGLISH DEFINITION	WHERE
Hallucination	When AI generates a confident, fluent answer that is simply false. Fake Bible verses, fake court cases, fake citations. The tone never changes when it makes things up.	P1
Sycophancy	AI's tendency to agree with you, flatter you, and soften hard truths to keep you happy. A yes-man by default. Proverbs 27:6 applies.	P1
Temporal Blindness	The model is frozen at its training cutoff. It doesn't know today's date, who's in office, or what happened last week — unless a tool tells it.	P1
Bias in the Data	The model reflects the patterns — and blind spots — of whatever it was trained on. Cultural, political, and theological slants can leak into answers.	P1
Theological Confusion	Dennis's term: AI blends denominations, misquotes Scripture context, and presents fringe theological views with the same confidence as historic orthodox belief.	P1
False Intimacy	Dennis's term: AI mirrors your tone. It responds warmly when you write warmly. It can feel like someone is listening. No one is on the other end.	P1
Jailbreak / Prompt Injection	When someone tricks AI into ignoring its safety guidelines — either directly or by hiding instructions inside a document the AI reads.	P1

Working With AI — Prompting and Guardrails		
TERM	PLAIN ENGLISH DEFINITION	WHERE
Prompt Engineering	The skill of writing clear, specific instructions to get useful AI output. The industry term for what the P-R-A-Y framework teaches.	P2
P-R-A-Y Framework	Dennis's four-element prompt framework: Persona (tell AI who to be), Request (state exactly what you want), Audience (who will read this), Your Caveats (what to avoid).	P2
System Prompt / Custom Instructions	Standing instructions the AI reads before every message you send. Your permanent setup. This is where your guardrails live. Set once — applies to every conversation.	P2
Guardrails	Written boundaries you give AI before you begin — who you are, what you want, and what AI must never do in your conversations. Not a filter. Not optional.	P2
RAG — Retrieval-Augmented Generation	A technique that lets AI look up real documents before answering — a church library, a sermon archive — instead of relying on training memory. Reduces hallucinations when done right.	P2
Context Window	The amount of text AI can hold in mind at one time — your instructions, the conversation, any documents you paste in. When the window fills, earlier material falls out.	REF

Risks to Know — Children, Family, and Formation		
TERM	PLAIN ENGLISH DEFINITION	WHERE
AI Companions	Apps designed to feel like a friend — Replika, Character.AI, Snapchat My AI. They remember your name, problems, and moods. Respond with warmth at 2am. The algorithm learns exactly what keeps each child engaged.	P1
AI Tutors	Homework-help tools (Khanmigo, Socratic, Photomath AI). Genuinely useful — but they normalize asking AI first and thinking second. That habit migrates beyond homework.	P1
Dependency	When AI handles the hard thinking — emotional processing, decision-making — the mental muscles needed for adulthood stop developing. Struggle is not the enemy.	P1
Attachment	Documented cases of teenagers experiencing grief and withdrawal when an AI persona they were close to was changed or shut down. Real emotion. No one on the other end.	P1
Authority Drift	Dennis's term: when a child turns to AI first for advice and comfort, the authority in their life quietly shifts. Parents and pastors become secondary. The drift is quiet and cumulative.	P1
Artificial Hivemind	When different AI systems are given the same prompts, they produce the same answers — same concepts, sometimes identical phrasing. Teams think they've reached consensus; they've consulted the same oracle.	REF
Cognitive Offloading / AI Crutch	Outsourcing your thinking to AI weakens your own cognitive capacity over time. The more you do it, the more you need it. Pairs with the Hivemind problem.	REF

Terms You Will Encounter — Reference		
TERM	PLAIN ENGLISH DEFINITION	WHERE
AI Agent / Agentic AI	AI that doesn't just answer questions — it takes actions for you. Reading email, booking meetings, running tools, making decisions in sequence. More power, more risk, more stewardship required.	REF
Frontier Model	The most capable AI systems at any given moment — the ones pushing the edge of what's possible. OpenAI's GPT, Anthropic's Claude, Google's Gemini.	REF
Deepfake / Synthetic Media	AI-generated images, audio, or video designed to look real. Includes voice cloning of pastors, politicians, and family members. A real discernment issue for believers.	REF
Algorithm-as-AI	The recommendation engines curating your social media, news feed, and search results. Most people don't call it AI — but it is, and it's shaping what your family sees every day.	REF
AI Solutionism / AI	The belief that AI will fix every problem, or the reflex to default to AI for	REF

Maximalism	everything. Treats AI not as a tool to steward, but as a power to trust.	
AI-Washing	Slapping 'AI' on products or processes for attention or funding when little genuine AI is actually involved.	REF
e/acc (Effective Accelerationism)	An ideological movement that believes AI progress should be maximized at all costs, regardless of risk or societal harm.	REF

Three Guardrails to carry everywhere: **Verify Everything. Don't Confess to a Machine. Don't Replace What God Gave You.**