

ASILOMAR 70

LANGUAGE ARTS CONFERENCE



TEACHING IN THE WORLD OF AI: PROMISES AND CHALLENGES

> OCTOBER 4-6, 2024



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The 70th annual conference of the Curriculum Study Commission, set for fall 2024, focuses on the dual potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to both enhance and challenge teaching and learning, a topic of great interest to educators in California and the United States Office of Educational Technology. With numerous educational priorities yet unmet, AI emerges as a promising tool, offering benefits like speech recognition to aid students with disabilities and multilingual learners, and providing personalized learning experiences across various curricula. However, AI's limitations, such as in ranking systems and the risks it poses in terms of academic integrity, privacy, and ethical concerns, cannot be overlooked.

TEACHING IN THE WORLD OF AI: PROMISES AND CHALLENGES

The conference aims to explore provocative learning strategies through expert discussions and topic-specific sessions. These sessions will explore AI's role in improving teaching quality, adapting learning to student strengths, and enhancing formative assessments. Ultimately, the conference will address the critical task of defining the extent and nature of AI's role in education, a significant current challenge.

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TEACHERS TEACHING TEACHERS SINCE 1949

SESSIONS

Select a first, second, and third choice from the group sessions below. For the group to maintain integrity, it is necessary that the same people stay together for the weekend. Expanded descriptions and additional session information is available at: <http://curriculumstudy.org>

1. Practical Questions and Critical Conversations About AI

GRADES 6-12, COLLEGE, GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Beyond the easy answers, what impact will AI, including LLMs like ChatGPT, have on marginalized students? Instead of waiting to find out, enter conversations to build an understanding of algorithms and LLMs to envision classroom, school, and district policies centering on student interests.

2. From Literature to Using ChatGPT and other AI Tools to Support Student-led Inquiry

GRADES 6-12

Literary texts open windows to student inquiry, but crucial to this process is choice. This session showcases an inquiry-based project using "Flowers for Algernon," emphasizing classroom dialogue, peer research, and essay writing to foster student empathy. Literary alternatives for projects offered by participants will be developed in small groups and shared.

3. Do You Have to be Human to Understand Hamlet?

GRADES 9-12

Hamlet is a challenging play for any human being to grasp. Can AI do better? Or does an appreciation of the play require a human being's experience and perspective? **OPTIONAL PRECONFERENCE READING:** *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

4. Engaging with ChatGPT: Co-Active Emergence

GRADES K-12, COLLEGE, GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Meaningful work with ChatGPT generates iterative results to engage with and evaluate. In an AI-infused classroom, healthy dialogues include students working with personalized computer assistants and sharing results with the group. This approach centers student inquiry and combines humans with machines to create co-active emergence, a new educational experience.

PRECONFERENCE READING: Online reading links available at curriculumstudy.org

5. Assessing, Learning and Applying AI

GRADES 6-12, COLLEGE

In this session, participants will learn about AI tools, and share experiences and understanding of the tools in their classroom. Together, we will create a resource bank of tools for use and work on an assessment guidance tool that can be used by teachers and students as we navigate the use of AI in our daily lives.

6. Teaching *Klara and the Sun*

GRADES 9-12, COLLEGE

This session will explore an approach to teaching Kazuo Ishiguro's novel *Klara and the Sun*, which explores the integration of AI "friends" into family life, and ultimately what it means to be human as increasingly better facsimiles are developed. **PRECONFERENCE READING:** *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

7. Creative Writing and AI: Fostering Wonder Ethically

GRADES 6-12, COLLEGE

AI systems glean creative works from the internet and have been employed to create new works of literature. To create new writing means certifying that your work does not contain generated language. In this interactive workshop we will demonstrate how to involve AI in the creative writing workshop ethically. All creative writing instructors, writers, and enthusiasts are invited to join us.

8. AI and the Student Centered Classroom

GRADES K-12

This session will explore ways new technologies can contribute to advancing a student centered, learning-by-doing, project-based curriculum. Drawing on the pathmaking work of James Moffett, participants will deepen their knowledge of the universe of discourse and explore methods of engaging students holistically in writing and learning. **PRECONFERENCE READING:** Online reading links available at curriculumstudy.org

9. AI in the Language Arts Classroom: The Social Justice Edition

GENERAL ENRICHMENT

No doubt, AI has entered the Language Arts classroom! What are some of the social justice issues centered around AI in academia? What are some of the most dynamic trends to date? Join me to discuss some of these dynamics.

10. Future-Proofing English Education: Empowering Students for AI-Infused Career Landscapes

GRADES 9-12

This session will take a deep dive into how we can prepare our students in a way where they can see the real world applications of the classroom skills we teach them today, from learning how to properly and responsibly prompt LLMs, to how they can use the tool to help organize themselves. *Participants expected to have working experience with AI.*

11. English Instruction Evolved: Tips and Tricks for Fast-Curriculum Design

GRADES 6-12, COLLEGE, GENERAL ENRICHMENT

This workshop equips English teachers with strategies to integrate ChatGPT into their lesson planning process, specifically through designing activities, setting objectives, differentiating instruction, and assessing with AI.

PRECONFERENCE READING: Online reading links available at curriculumstudy.org

12. In the Belly of the Beast: Why We Need to Put Ethics First in the Age of AI

GRADES 9-12

Rather than enforcing a top-down classroom AI policy, grapple with how to engage students in philosophical discussions about these technologies in a morally responsible, human-centered way. Attendees will experience the same processes we used with students: creation of course values, close readings, and guided discussion about the ethics of AI.

SPEAKERS

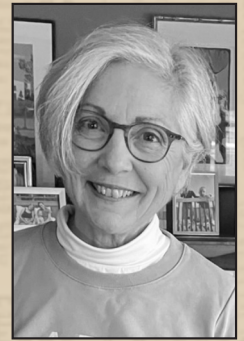
Robert Jeffers is a 22-year education veteran. Currently principal of the largest continuation and community day school in the Los Angeles Unified School District, he has also served communities in Los Angeles as an instructional coach, a support administrator, and a teacher. During his award-winning teaching tenure, he earned multiple Teacher of the Year recognitions and commendations from community leaders. He's overseen well-above 10,000 collective hours in community service projects at more than 100 events.

He has taught in Sri Lanka and Sierra Leone plus fostered partnerships with corporate and non-profit organizations across industries from art to filmmaking to science. Artificial Intelligence in education poses a generational opportunity and challenge for students and educators alike requiring presence, awareness, creativity, humility, vision, industry, and critically, community.



Robert Jeffers

Carol Jago has taught English in middle and high school in public schools for 32 years and is associate director of the California Reading and Literature Project at UCLA. She served as president of the National Council of Teachers of English and on the National Assessment Governing Board. She currently serves on the International Literacy Association's Board of Directors. She has published many books with Heinemann including *The Book in Question: Why and How Reading Is in Crisis* and published books on contemporary multicultural authors for NCTE. Carol has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Association of Teachers of English and was the recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English Squire Award given to honor an individual who has had a transforming influence and has made a lasting intellectual contribution to the profession.



Carol Jago

13. I'm Nobody. Who are You?: Writing, Reading, and Writing About Poetry

GRADES 9-12, COLLEGE, GENERAL ENRICHMENT

How do we engage with and teach poetry? Beyond Dickinson's "I'm nobody," we explore "Who are you?" to uncover identity in poetry. This foundation guides our study of poems, teaching methods, and prompts, deepening our poetic practice and instruction.

14. Generative AI: Implications for Teaching in the Age of ChatGPT

GRADES 6-12, COLLEGE, GENERAL ENRICHMENT

How can we best equip our students for a future that includes generative AI? What are the practical and ethical considerations of AI? How will this change what we can and should be doing as teachers? This session will dive into these questions and more as we adjust to a new frontier. *Participants expected to have working experience with AI.*

15. John Steinbeck in Conversation with AI: Mapping a Vision of Interconnectedness

GRADES 6-12, COLLEGE, GENERAL ENRICHMENT

During this session participants will delve into John Steinbeck's novels to explore connections and parallels between his themes of social justice, the human condition, and societal inequities with themes and philosophies manifest in AI tools. Our exploration will look to the arts as we craft our own expressions of Steinbeck's themes. Bring your favorite Steinbeck novel or writing.

16. Exploring Intersectionality in Climate Change Literature and Film

GRADES 9-12, COLLEGE

Climate change is the most pressing existential threat of our time. Join us for an interdisciplinary discussion of climate change literature and the way it intersects with race, gender, and socioeconomic status. We will explore poetry, novels, films, and critical theory related to climate change and the environmental humanities. **PRECONFERENCE VIEWING:** *Beasts of the Southern Wild* **OPTIONAL PRECONFERENCE READING:** *Counting Descent* by Clint Smith, *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward, and *A Children Bible* by Lydia Millet.

17. Pivot, Not Surrender: An Approach To Generative AI

GRADES 6-12, COLLEGE

In the age of large language models (LLMs), teachers of ELA wonder how to adjust their instruction. This session will discuss the concerns, the implications, and the ethics of a world with AI. Attendees will gain a greater understanding of the "big picture" and actionable steps for classroom application. *Participants expected to have working experience with AI.*

18. Classroom Management: IRL

GRADES K-12

The classroom is the place where the magic of education happens, or doesn't. This weekend, I would like to invite you to engage in a conversation of and for implementing strategies, routines, and mindful structures that will help organize a thriving learning space for every student and teacher.

19. All Your Faves Are Problematic: Directly Addressing Problematic Actions, Ideas, and Content In Our Classrooms, Departments, and Schools

GRADES 6-12

Many of us teach texts or employ policies with problematic elements out of habit or requirement. Let's discuss and examine what we teach and how, and surface strategies to address these problems and evolve our curriculum, our classrooms, and our schools--approaches we can start using immediately.

20. Cultivating Authentic Writers in an AI World

GRADES 9-12, COLLEGE, GENERAL ENRICHMENT

How do we turn reluctant writers into confident authors when LLMs are a click away? What tools do we have at our disposal, and how do we best deploy them? Join us to examine writing instruction in the AI era.

21. AI and Journalism

GRADES 9-12, COLLEGE

Does AI offer journalists a moonshot opportunity or pose a threat equal to the Internet, dictatorships, and media consolidation, or somewhere in between? AI impacts academic classrooms and newsrooms. Join the conversation and learn ways active journalists work in this new era.

22. AI is my New TA

GRADES 6-12

Exploring promising ways that AI can support educators in the classroom from lesson planning to assessment design to critical feedback.

23. From Life to Paper: Telling Our Stories

GENERAL ENRICHMENT

We are the experts when we write our personal stories. In this session you will be invited to write and share two or three life vignettes.

24. Writing on the Road

GRADES K-12, COLLEGE, GENERAL ENRICHMENT

In learning to harness the power of writing, we gain the ability to understand our lives and find our place in the world. This session provides time to write: personal essays, memoir, fiction, poetry. We respond to one another's drafts using a rewarding classroom-ready Writing Project protocol.

25. The Opera Group

GRADES K-12, COLLEGE, GENERAL ENRICHMENT

A 30-year fixture of the Asilomar conference, the opera group focuses on two upcoming performances of the San Francisco Opera. We compare and contrast performances from all over the world on DVD to illuminate the world of opera. Perfect for novice and pro alike. A book on opera is provided.

26. Do Your Own Thing—Team Planning Session

School or district teams can use conference time to plan their own projects, and find inspiration from the keynote and Around the Hearth sessions.



Asilomar Conference Grounds beach boardwalk, circa 2016. Photo by Marlowe Boyd.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 3:30-9:00 pm Registration
- 4:30-5:30 pm Reception
- 6:00-7:00 pm Dinner
- 7:15-8:30 pm General Session A w/Robert Jeffers
- 8:45-9:45 pm GROUP SESSION #1

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 7:30-8:45 am Breakfast
- 8:00-5:45 pm Bookstore Open
- 9:00-10:30 am GROUP SESSION #2
- 10:30-10:50 am Coffee in Designated Places
- 10:50-12:00 pm GROUP SESSION #3
- 12:00-1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:30-3:00 pm GROUP SESSION #4
- 4:00-5:30 pm Reception and Book Signing
- 6:00-7:00 pm Dinner
- 7:15-8:30 pm Around the Hearth Session I w/Carol Jago
- 8:45-10:00 pm Around the Hearth Session II: Open Mic

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 7:30-9:00 am Breakfast
- 8:00-9:00 am Bookstore Open
- 9:15-11:15 am GROUP SESSION #5

Brochure design by Jim McCarthy
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REGISTER HERE!

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