Political Science Department Policy on the Use of AI Tools for HT Projects

Please note that this policy applies to PS4401, PS4401HM, GL4401, GL4401HM, PE4401S, and PE4401S(HM).

The policy consists of two 'baskets':

I. **Academic integrity**

Students must duly acknowledge any use of generative AI.

All uses of generative AI at any point in the HT research & writing process need to be declared in table form using this format:

AI Tool Used, including links to chat history (if applicable)	Student-Provided Prompt/Input	Generated Output	How the output was used in the assignment (indicate which page numbers if possible)

This table should be appended at the end of the HT.

- If multiple prompts were used, students should indicate each usage in a separate row and add more rows to the table as needed.

- Students must provide a verbatim record of all prompts & outputs from generative AI tools. Students may copy and paste the prompts and outputs, provide screenshots of prompts and outputs, or provide a unique URL that shares the record of the full conversation with the AI tool.

- Students must provide full and accurate disclosure of how outputs from generative AI were used in the HT, including the pages in the HT where this output was used (if any).

The university also states that "Research materials (including texts, graphics and data) obtained from the internet or other electronic resources should be treated in the same way as research materials obtained from traditional sources." (see https://www.nus.edu.sg/celc/statements-and-e-resources-on-plagiarism/) Therefore, in addition to the table declaring generative AI usage, citations should be used to acknowledge where AI tools have been used to generate ideas, information, images, or text (including AI-generated text that has been edited or revised by students). A number of referencing guides have also released advice on citing generative AI, and students should consult the relevant guides for their citations (see for example the Chicago Manual of Style's guidance on citing generative AI: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html)

All HTs must also include a completed Honours Thesis Gen-AI Usage Declaration. The declaration should be placed after the bibliography/works cited section in the HT.

II. Expectations of good academic practice for HTs

The university states that "Copying wholesale from AI, even with attribution, will not guarantee a good grade as you are tested on your ability to demonstrate originality, views, intellectual engagement with content, rigor, and contribution to discourse." (https://libguides.nus.edu.sg/new2nus/ai_guidelines_infographics)

The Political Science and Global Studies Honours Year Prospectuses inform students that "An HT is an independent research project that addresses an important question or puzzle, and provides a strong argument based on sound and substantial empirical evidence. It is a major research undertaking at an undergraduate level, and requires far more effort in terms of originality, detail, clarity and independence than an ISC or a normal course essay."

Therefore, while usage of generative AI is not prohibited as long as duly acknowledged, ill-considered or excessive student uses of generative AI can constitute poor academic practice and fail to meet HTs' standards of intellectual independence and rigour.

Expectations of HTs include:

- Effective use of credible sources

    o Students can fall short of this expectation if they do not use sources with academic credibility, for example, relying on AI tools for information without cross-referencing academic sources.

- Independent analysis

    o Students can fall short of this expectation if they rely too much on AI to generate ideas, explanations, or analysis, or if they fail to independently read the sources used in their HT (e.g. when students use generative AI to summarise articles and books instead of reading these sources themselves).

- Independent writing

    o Students can fall short of this expectation if they are overly dependent on AI to generate text used in the HT.

The university's policy for the use of AI in teaching and learning states that "Submissions for unsupervised assessments that duly acknowledge the use of AI should be graded on the quality of the work alone and not penalized just for having used AI." Therefore, HT examiners should not mark down students simply for using AI tools. Rather, paying attention to the nature and extent of AI usage as well as how AI outputs have been used in the HT, they should assess whether particular uses of generative AI would constitute poor academic practice in this context, and the degree to which the quality of the HT is negatively impacted.