LSU | **College of Engineering**
Department of
Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

The Robert W. Courter Seminar Series

3:00-4:00pm, Friday, September 12, 2025

1202 Patrick F. Taylor Hall

Education, Research Ethics, and The Myth of Generative AI Skills

by Dr. Michael Ardoline

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Abstract: In the advent of Generative Artificial Intelligence, especially LLM's such as ChatGPT, we are inundated with forecasts that these tools will radically change employment, our work lives, and the economy. If so, they argue, our education systems must change in response. In particular, they claim today's students need to learn AI skills. Rarely, however, do any of these commentators specify what AI skills we should be teaching. At the same time, many professors are treating generative AI equivalent to plagiarism and excluding it from the class room. If those calling for AI skill training are correct, then these professors are negligent in their duty to prepare students for the world they will face. I will make two arguments in response to this. First, I will argue that there is no such thing as uniquely generative AI skill. That is, they do not exist and so cannot be taught or learned. Second, I will turn recent research in the cognitive effects of generative AI on learning. I will use this to argue that, generative AI is not just skill-less, but actually de-skills its users. From a virtue ethics perspective then, current generative AI is harmful to education as such.

Biography: Michael J. Ardoline is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Louisiana State University. His work focuses on philosophy of science, mathematics, and technology in the continental and analytic traditions. He is the author of Deleuze, Mathematics, Metaphysics: Difference and Necessity, as well as articles and chapters on the metaphysics of science and mathematics, comparative philosophy between the continental and ancient Chinese traditions, and the ethics of digital technologies. He is currently working on a monograph titled Interiority Against Control: Deleuze and Confucianism on Living Well in the Age of Information Technologies.