OLLI TECHNOLOGY Syllabus: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basics for the Curious
(Fall 2025)

Instructor: Danny Torres (✉ danny.tech.world@gmail.com | 📱 **714-461-1991**)

Location: Shapiro AB / Stream
Time: Alternate Thursdays • 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Dates: September 18 • October 2, 16, 30 • November 13 (No class Nov 27) • December 4
Pre-registration required via TouchNet

👋 Welcome to the Course

This course is specifically designed for OLLI members who are curious about **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** but may feel uncertain about where to start. Whether you've never tried AI before or already dabbled with tools like Siri, Alexa, or ChatGPT, this class will guide you in a **friendly, hands-on, and conversational way.**

Our goals are simple:

- **Empower you** so *you are in control of the technology, not the other way around.*

- Build a **community of curiosity** where we can learn from one another.

- Explore **real-world uses** of AI in everyday life, from writing and organizing to art, creativity, and problem-solving.

- Keep discussions **open, thoughtful, and practical**, with time for questions and discovery.

Bring your curiosity, your voice, and if you like, a device (smartphone, tablet, or laptop) to practice with in class.

📅 Course Outline

Each session combines short presentations, live demonstrations, and ample time for **questions, discussions, and hands-on exploration.**

Session 1 – September 18

"AI: What It Is (and Isn't)"

- Breaking down the basics: AI vs. everyday technology

- Common myths & fears

- Where you already encounter AI in daily life

- Hands-on: exploring voice assistants (Siri, Alexa, Google Assistant)

Session 2 – October 2

"Meet ChatGPT: Your New Conversation Partner"

- What is ChatGPT, and how does it work

- Trying your first prompts from recipes to travel tips

- Building confidence in asking questions

- Hands-on: guided ChatGPT practice on your device

Session 3 – October 16

"AI at Home, Work, and Play"

- Everyday uses: organization, reminders, research help

- Creative tools: drafting a poem, generating images, summarizing news

- Sharing stories: how classmates are already using AI

- Hands-on: AI as your personal assistant

Session 4 – October 30

"AI and You: Ethics, Privacy & Trust"

- How AI handles your data

- Benefits vs. risks (privacy, misinformation, deepfakes)

- Small group discussions: What would you trust AI to do?

- Hands-on: privacy settings & safe AI use tips

Session 5 – November 13

"AI and Creativity"

- Exploring music, art, and writing with AI

- Can AI be original? Where does creativity live?

- Group activity: make something with AI together

- Hands-on: generating text, art, or ideas with your device

Session 6 – December 4

"Looking Ahead: The Future of AI"

- Where AI is heading in society, healthcare, education, and beyond

- Reflecting on our personal journeys through the course

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- Building a community of continued curiosity and support

- Celebration: sharing what we've learned and created

🌱 What You'll Gain

- A **clear understanding** of AI, without jargon.

- Confidence to try AI tools at your own pace.

- A chance to **experiment hands-on** in a safe, supportive setting.

- A community of **fellow curious learners** who share discoveries and help one another.

💡 Class Philosophy

"Allow the student to be empowered by technology and not the other way around."
– Danny Torres

This class is not about memorizing every detail of AI. It's about **building confidence, curiosity, and community.** Everyone brings valuable experiences, and your questions are always welcome.