COURSE SYLLABUS

Advanced Prompt Design & Reasoning Strategies for Government Professionals Course

As AI use in government work becomes more common, the difference between acceptable and risky AI output often comes down to how prompts are designed—not which tool is used. This course equips professionals with the advanced prompting strategies needed to produce reliable, defensible, and high-quality AI outputs in environments where accuracy, clarity, and accountability matter.

Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/advanced-prompt-design-reasoning-strategies-for-government-professionals



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Course Outline

Module 1: Prompt Architecture & Multi-Prompt Systems

- Explain the difference between single-prompt tasks and multi-prompt reasoning systems.
- Decompose complex work into discrete prompt roles.
- Design a coordinated set of prompts that each serve a specific reasoning function.

Module 2: Reasoning Control Through Self-Critique & Adversarial Prompting

- Use self-critique prompts to identify weaknesses in AI outputs.
- Apply adversarial prompting to surface gaps, risks, and assumptions.
- Improve output quality without adding new source material.

Module 3: Constraint-First Prompting & Uncertainty Control

- Design prompts that explicitly control scope, exclusions, and failure conditions.
- Instruct AI to surface uncertainty instead of guessing.
- Reduce hallucinations by shaping acceptable behavior in advance.

Module 4: Comparative Prompting & Prompt Optimization

- Use comparative prompting to identify weaknesses and inconsistencies.
- Evaluate outputs by analyzing disagreement across prompts.

- Optimize prompts for efficiency without degrading output quality.