SVU 101: Breakout Session

Fall 2026

Session Schedule

AI Literacy — Topics and Before-Class Work

Section 04 meets **Fridays, 1:30–2:20 p.m., in ACD 108**; Section 10 meets **Wednesdays, 12:30–1:20 p.m., in ACD 211** (ACD is the Academic Center) (its last meeting is Tuesday, Dec 8, the Curricular Wednesday). No meetings Thanksgiving week. There are also six weekly **Forum Check-Ins**, for the weeks of Oct 19, Oct 26, Nov 2, Nov 9, Nov 16, Nov 30, each due Saturday at 11:59 p.m. — see the Session Overview. The contents of this schedule are subject to change. The instructor will notify students of any changes.

Wk	Sec 04 (ACD 108)	Sec 10 (ACD 211)	Topic	Before Class	Due
Stage 1 — How does it work?					
1	Fri, Oct 16	Wed, Oct 21	What Is AI?	Nothing. Come as you are.	—
2	Fri, Oct 23	Wed, Oct 28	Neural Nets and Natural Language	Two videos (IBM on neural networks; 3Blue1Brown on LLMs) + video quiz	Quiz
Stage 2 — How do I use it?					
3	Fri, Oct 30	Wed, Nov 4	What Are the Tools?	Watch *Every AI Model Explained* (20 min); skim a live leaderboard	Quiz
4	Fri, Nov 6	Wed, Nov 11	Doing! (Prompting Workshop)	Watch the prompt-engineering how-to; post one comment	Post
Stage 3 — When should I use it?					
5	Fri, Nov 13	Wed, Nov 18	Ethical Considerations	Read your group's assigned article; prepare a 5-minute presentation	Present
6	Fri, Nov 20	Wed, Dec 2	Work vs. School: Cognitive Surrender	Read the assigned essay on outsourcing your thinking	Reading
7	Fri, Dec 4	Tue, Dec 8	**Field Reports**	**Prepare your field report and slide** — see the assignment sheet	**Report**

The arc, in one line each.

1. We fit a line to real data and predict something we had not seen. That is a model. That is training. Math, not magic.
2. We look at how words become numbers, and watch a working classifier confidently produce nonsense the moment it leaves its training data.
3. We map the landscape — who makes what, which model does images, what an API is — so the vocabulary stops being noise.
4. We actually build something, and we keep a record of every prompt revision it took.
5. You teach each other about data centers, the environment, courts, therapy, and delusion.
6. The hard question: not *can* I use it, but *should* I, here, for this. You write your own policy.

7. You show the room how AI is landing in the field you actually care about — and what it costs.

AI was used in the development and editing of this document.