

GenAI Learning Lab – Topic 10: Exploring goblin.tools

goblin.tools: Generative AI for managing overwhelm and task paralysis

Michael Turingan

MSc

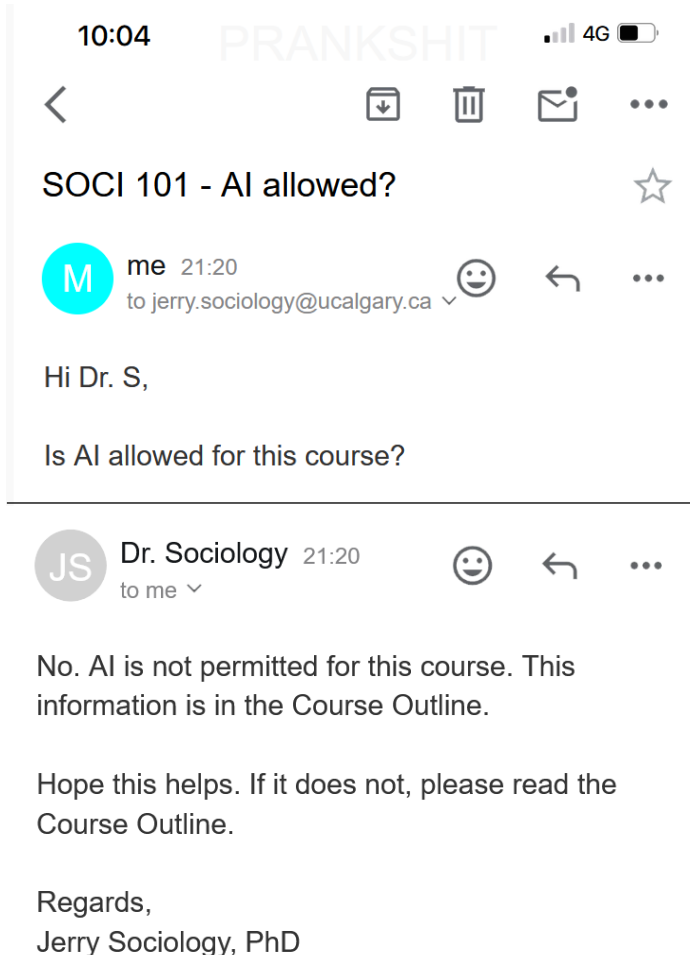
Writing Support – Chancellor Cuthbertson Student Success Centre



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Student Success Centre



Before Using GenAI:



- Ensure use of AI is permitted for your course!
- Not sure where to find this info?
 - → Consult your Assignment Outline
 - → Consult the Course Outline/Syllabus
 - → Ask your professor



Exploring goblin.tools

- 1) Overview of goblin.tools
- 2) Choosing the Right Tool for the Task
- 3) Final Word on goblin.tools



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A collection of small, simple tools, for when things feel too big or complicated



Magic ToDo

Break down todo items



Formalizer

Text transformers for tone



Judge

Read a text for emotion



Professor

Explain anything



Consultant

Help me decide



Estimator

Guess an activity's timeframe



Compiler

Turn a braindump into actions



Chef

Create a recipe from ingredients



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Help ?

Magic ToDo

Breaking things down so you don't

Spiciness level:

BIOL 243 Midterm II (30%)



 ☐ CHEM 203 Lab Report (15%) - fractional distillation



 ☐ BCEN 343 Midterm II (30%)

2 hours ▾



 ☐ SOCI 201 Midterm II (30%)

2 hours ▾



 Sync ▲





Magic ToDo

Break down todo items

Add new item...

☰ ☐ BIOL 243 Midterm II (30%)

☰ ☐ CHEM 203 Lab Report (15%) - fractional distillation



☰ ☐ BCEM 343 Midterm II (30%)

2 hours ▾



☰ ☐ SOCI 201 Midterm II (30%)

2 hours ▾



↻ Sync ▲



Break down item





Magic ToDo

Break down todo items

Add new item...



☐ BIOL 243 Midterm II (30%)



☐ Review the key concepts covered in BIOL 243 Midterm II



☐ Identify the main topics and themes likely to be tested



☐ Summarize each topic in clear, concise points



☐ Prepare relevant notes and review previous assignments or practice questions



☐ Practice answering potential exam questions to reinforce understanding



☐ CHEM 203 Lab Report (15%) - fractional distillation



☐ BCEM 343 Midterm II (30%)

2 hours ▾



☐ SOCI 201 Midterm II (30%)

2 hours ▾



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Formalizer

Turn the chaotic thoughts into classy ones, or vice versa

-Critical essay - thesis statement - introductory sociology course
-Foucault's Panopticon - relevant today
-why? people policing their own behaviour through social media



Make my text:

More professional



Convert



Your converted text will appear here...





Formalizer

Text transformers for tone

Formalizer

Turn the chaotic thoughts into classy ones, or vice versa

-Critical essay - thesis statement - introductory sociology course
-Foucault's Panopticon - relevant today
-why? people policing their own behaviour through social media

Make my text:

More professional

Convert



Your converted

More professional

More technical

More accessible

More polite

Less snarky

Angrier

Easier to read

More formal

More informal

More sociable (waffle)

More to the point (unwaffle)

Less emotional

More passionate

More sarcastic

Grammatically correct

Bullet points

A single word (thesaurus mode)

teacher writing para

has a free Writing Wizard to





Formalizer

Text transformers for tone

Formalizer

Turn the chaotic thoughts into classy ones, or vice versa

-Critical essay - thesis statement - introductory sociology course
-Foucault's Panopticon - relevant today
-why? people policing their own behaviour through social media

Make my text:

More technical



Convert



A critical analytical essay presenting a thesis statement within an introductory sociology framework, examining Foucault's concept of the Panopticon and its contemporary relevance; specifically, how it elucidates the phenomenon of self-monitoring behaviors driven by social media platforms.



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Compiler

Compile my braindump into a list of tasks

This assignment mandates that students engage in a rigorous, critical examination of a contemporary social institution, cultural discourse, or systemic structural phenomenon. Moving decisively beyond mere description or superficial summary, students are expected to deploy advanced sociological frameworks to interrogate the operations of power, inequality, and social reproduction inherent in their chosen area of inquiry. The paper should demonstrate an upper-level capacity to synthesize empirical evidence with abstract theoretical paradigms.

Core Evaluative Components

Thesis Formulation and Argumentation (15%): Students must construct a nuanced, contestable, and logically sustained thesis statement that effectively

Turn into tasks

Your tasks are:

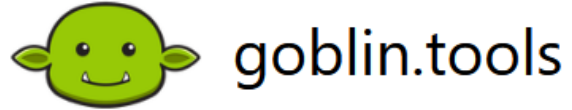
- Engage in a critical examination of a social institution, cultural discourse, or systemic phenomenon
- Construct a nuanced, contestable, and logically sustained thesis statement linking empirical phenomenon with macro-sociological critique
- Integrate and apply at least two major sociological theories or conceptual frameworks to illuminate system dynamics
- Evaluate how historical precedents, institutional structures, and cultural ideologies intersect to maintain, reproduce, or challenge the status quo
- Support claims with a synthesis of at least five peer-reviewed journal articles, critically evaluating their methodological validity

Send result to the Magic Todo

Exploring goblin.tools

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Magic ToDo

Break down todo items



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Judge

Read a text for emotion

The simplicity of the templates in goblin.tools allows students to overcome the *inertia* associated with complex tasks

Explain anything

Help me decide

Guess an activity's timeframe



Compiler

Turn a braindump into actions

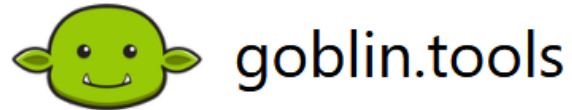


Chef

Create a recipe from ingredients



BUT... for academic tasks requiring accuracy and specificity, goblin.tools has inherent limitations



INPUT (prompt)

- Limited space to provide context on tasks
- Lacks iteration

OUTPUT

- Generic
- Final, can't be altered



INPUT (prompt)

- Huge context windows allow you to provide ample background info on your task
- iterative/editable

OUTPUT

- Specific (if prompted correctly)
- Can be altered/revised





How to get the *simplicity* of **goblin.tools** without sacrificing the *utility* of **other LLM platforms**?

A collection of small, simple tools, for when things feel too big or complicated



Magic ToDo

Break down todo items

Link Google Calendar to Google Gemini →

- Provide information from your syllabus, assignment outlines, etc.
- Gemini can then itemize this into actionable tasks, and then you can ask:
- **“What do I need to do to prepare for my deadlines this week?”**



Judge

Read a text for emotion



Professor

Explain anything



Consultant

Help me decide



Estimator

Guess an activity's timeframe



Compiler

Turn a braindump into actions



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Magic ToDo

Break down todo items



Formalizer

Text transformers for tone

Ask an LLM platform (e.g. Gemini) to
**“organize these thoughts into
cohesive statements without adding
extraneous information”**

Judge

Read a text for emotion



Professor

Explain anything



Consultant

Help me decide



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Compiler

Turn a braindump into actions

Provide info from a lengthy assignment outline and ask an LLM platform to **“extract the actionable tasks from this outline.”**

Create a recipe from ingredients



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Final Word on goblin.tools

- The appeal of goblin.tools is that it offers:
 - simplification of daunting tasks into a form that is more easily digested and managed
 - BUT: the lack of capacity for iteration and revision as well as limited space to provide appropriate context for tasks results in *generic* and often *unreliable* outputs
- The good news:
 - by diversifying your GenAI toolkit and practicing the prompts discussed here, one can tackle complex and daunting tasks without compromising academic rigor :)

Additional Resources

- UCalgary Centre for Artificial Intelligence Ethics, Literacy and Integrity (CAIELI)
 - <https://library.ucalgary.ca/services/caieli>

Thank You for Your Attention!

Questions?

Michael Turingan
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michael.Turingan@ucalgary.ca

For more ways Gen AI can help you with time management,
see the below handout by **Ian Chua**:

<https://ucalgary.ca/live-uc-ucalgary-site/sites/default/files/teams/23/AI%20Handouts/Using%20AI%20in%20University/AI-for-time-management.pdf>

