

MODULE 6 · Portfolio, Departmental Alignment, and Continuous Revision

Lecture 6.3

Designing for Capability Drift



Capability drift outpaces standard syllabus revision.

AI tools change what they can do, how students use them, and what policies can reasonably assume — **at a pace faster than syllabi normally revise.**

Three categories of fragility.

High-drift

- specific tool names
- free/paid feature comparisons
- detection claims
- model capability claims

Moderate-drift

- AIAS levels at course-vocabulary level 
- policy language tied to institutional contracts

Lower-drift

- TILT
- AIAS as concept 
- post-plagiarism
- the Safety Gap

Lower-drift does not mean maintenance-free; review periodically.

Triggers.



Major model release



Change in institutional AI policy



Student question or violation revealing a gap



End of semester



Department conversation

*Course maintenance heuristic: when two or more triggers occur, schedule a revisit; do not revisit on every model release.
Override: revisit immediately after an institutional policy, privacy, security, or accessibility change.*

Evidence and signals.



Student artifacts from the semester *(one assignment's worth)*



Stress Test re-run on the assignment *(one question, not all four)*



Annual Capability Drift Bulletin, when available *(released annually by course steward)*



Departmental conversations (signals) *(informal)*

Owner and action.

Maintenance: owner and action



Owner — the instructor (you).



Action — small. Re-run one Stress Test question. Revise one paragraph. Update one example.



SUSTAINABLE *Course maintenance target: one action should usually take 30 minutes or less. Larger changes may require departmental or institutional support.*

The Stale Example audit.



Vintage stamps are how this course makes drift triage trivial. Use them.



SUSTAINABLE

Aim for a 90-minute maintenance budget each semester. If maintenance repeatedly exceeds that target, simplify the design or clarify who owns the revision. Schedule the next 90-minute review block now and record it in the Six-Month Plan.



In one sentence, name one element of your portfolio that is high-drift and one that is stable.