Syllabus

CMPSC 370
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
Fall 2016

Syllabus

Course Instructor
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Instructor’s Office Hours

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (15 minute time slots)
- Thursday: 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm (10 minute time slots)

To schedule a meeting with me during the office hours, please go to http://cs.allegheny.edu/sites/jjumadinova/schedule, click on the “book an appointment” link and select the available date and time of your choice. You can schedule an appointment outside of my office hours via course’s Slack channel or email.

Course Meeting Schedule
Lecture, Discussion and Group Work: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm
Laboratory Session: Tuesday, 2:30 pm – 4:20 pm

Course Resources
Course Web page: http://cs.allegheny.edu/sites/jjumadinova/teaching/370
You can find the most up-to-date schedule of the course and the required readings on the course’s page.

Sakai page: https://sakai.allegheny.edu/
The course page on Sakai will only be used for reporting student grades and online exams.

Bitbucket: https://bitbucket.org/
Bitbucket repositories will be used for sharing course materials by the instructor and for submitting assignments by the students.

Slack channel: https://cs370f2016.slack.com/
Slack will be used for discussion and communication outside of the classroom.
Academic Bulletin Course Description

A survey of the theory, computational techniques, and applications of artificial intelligence. Topics include agents, knowledge representation, machine learning, general problem solving, natural language processing, neural networks, evolutionary computation, computer vision, robotics, and philosophical questions. One laboratory per week. Offered in alternate years.

Course Objectives

Complex real-world problems, such as web search, speech/face recognition, machine translation, and autonomous driving, involve rigorous solutions from the field of artificial intelligence or AI. This course will introduce students to the foundational principles that drive these intelligent applications and offer an opportunity to practice implementing some of these systems. Areas of discussion include, but are not limited to, probabilistic methods, learning, game playing, Markov decision processes, graphical models, natural language processing, and logic. The main goal of the course is to equip students with the tools to tackle new AI problems you might encounter in life by learning how to determine when an AI approach is appropriate for a given situation, being able to select AI method and implementing it.

The course will introduce students to the theory and practice of artificial intelligence while covering both the well-established and the cutting-edge areas of the discipline. The course also invites students to assess the correctness of their implementations and conduct both analytical and empirical evaluations of the performance of the AI algorithms. Moreover, the course will ask students to implement small- and medium-scale intelligent systems and to use a wide variety of relevant AI tools. In addition to improving their teamwork skills, students will enhance their ability to write and speak about intelligent systems in a clear and concise fashion.

Learning Objectives

At the completion of this class, a student must be comfortable with the fundamental theory and practical techniques in artificial intelligence and be aware of the current research in the area. Students should be able to recognize new problems that may be solved using artificial intelligence methods and implement a complete application that uses them to solve the stated problem. Finally, students must develop and apply a strong knowledge of analytical and empirical techniques that they can use to characterize and predict the performance of intelligent systems.

Required Textbooks


(References to the textbook are abbreviated as “FCA” in the schedule).


Along with the required books and handouts, you will be assigned to read additional articles from
a wide variety of conference proceedings, journals, and the popular press.

Class Policies

Grading

The grade that a student receives in this class will be based on the following categories. All percentages are approximate and it is possible for the assigned percentages to be changed during the academic semester, if a need arises to do so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Assignments</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam III</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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These grading categories have the following definitions:

- **Class Participation**: All students are required to actively participate during all of the class sessions. Your participation will take forms of completing class exercises (individually and in teams), answering questions about the required reading assignments, contributing to class discussions and asking constructive and relevant questions. You must also regularly participate in the discussions and polls on the Slack channels for this course.

- **Laboratory Assignments**: Lab assignments invite students to explore different techniques for designing, implementing, evaluating, and documenting software solutions to challenging problems that often have a connection to real-world concerns. To best ensure that students are ready to develop software in both other classes at Allegheny College and after graduation, students will complete assignments both on an individual basis and in teams.

- **Examinations**: The first, second and third examinations will cover all of the material in their associated module(s). While the second and third examinations are not cumulative, it will assume that a student has a basic understanding of the material that was the focus of the previous examination(s). The finalized date for each examination will be announced at least one week in advance of the scheduled date. Unless prior arrangements are made with the course instructor, all students will be expected to take these examinations on the scheduled date.

- **Final Project**: This project will present you with an opportunity to design and implement a correct and carefully evaluated intelligent system for a particular problem. Completion of the final project will require you to apply all of the knowledge and skills that you have acquired during the course of the semester. The details for the final project will be given shortly after the fall break.
Assignment Submission

All assignments will have a stated due date and are to be turned in electronically on that due date; all assignments must have headers with your name, date and the Honor Code pledge of the student(s) completing the work. You must follow proper procedures for submitting your completed programs in order for them to be graded. You will be given instructions on how to do that with your first programming assignment.

Late assignments will be accepted for up to one week past the assigned due date with a 15% penalty. All of the late assignments must be submitted at the beginning of the session that is scheduled one week after the due date. Unless special arrangements are made with the course instructor, no assignments will be accepted after the late deadline. For any assignment completed in a group, students must also turn in a one-page retrospective that describes each group member’s contribution to the submitted deliverables and the dynamics of their team work.

Attendance

It is mandatory for all students to attend all of the class, practical, and laboratory sessions. If you will not be able to attend a session, then please see me at least one week in advance to describe your situation. In case you missed a class because of an emergency, please notify me as soon as possible. Students who miss more than five unexcused sessions will have their final grade in the course reduced by one letter grade. Frequent or prolonged absences due to illness should be documented by the student’s doctor, the Health Center, the Dean of Students’ Office, or the office of Student Disability Services. If you need to miss class due to a religious observance, please speak to me in advance to make appropriate arrangements.

Use of Laboratory Facilities

Throughout the semester, we will investigate many different software tools that computer scientists use during the design, implementation, and evaluation of algorithms. The course instructor and the department’s systems administrator have invested a considerable amount of time to ensure that our laboratories support the completion of all of the assignments and projects. To this end, students are required to complete all of the laboratory and practical assignments and the final project while using the department’s laboratory facilities. The course instructor and the systems administrator normally do not assist students in configuring their personal computers.

You may access your computer science account remotely by following instructions on: http://www.cs.allegheny.edu/about/x2go/

Class Preparation

In order to minimize confusion and maximize learning, students must invest time to prepare for the class discussions, lectures, and practical and laboratory sessions. During the class periods, the course instructor will often pose questions that could require group discussion, the creation of a program or data set, a vote on a thought-provoking issue, or a group presentation. In order to help students remain organized and effectively prepare for classes, the course instructor will maintain a class schedule with reading assignments and presentation slides.
Seeking Assistance

Students who are struggling to understand the knowledge and skills developed in a class or a laboratory session are encourage to seek assistance from the course instructor. Students who need the course instructor’s assistance should schedule a meeting through her Web site.

A Note on extenuating circumstances

If you should find yourself in difficult circumstances that significantly interfere with your ability to prepare for this class and to complete assignments, please inform me immediately so that we can work something out together! Do not wait until the last day of class to ask for exceptions to what is stated in this syllabus. In such a situation, you may also find it helpful to contact one of the available resources on campus:
The Maytum Learning Commons, Library/Academic Commons, 814-332-2898
Allegheny College Counseling Center, Reis Hall, 814-332-4368
Winslow Health Center, Schultz Hall, 814-332-4355
Allegheny College Chaplain, Reis Hall, 814-332-2800

Special Needs and Disability

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Services at (814) 332-2898. Disability Services is part of the Learning Commons and is located in Pelletier Library. Please do this as soon as possible to ensure that approved accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Honor Code

All students enrolled at Allegheny College are bound by the Honor Code. It is expected that your behaviour will reflect that commitment. To this end, we expect that you will adhere to the following Department Policy:

Department of Computer Science Honor Code Policy

It is recognized that an important part of the learning process in any course, and particularly in computer science, derives from thoughtful discussions with teachers, student assistants, and fellow students. Such dialogue is encouraged. However, it is necessary to distinguish carefully between the student who discusses the principles underlying a problem with others, and the student who produces assignments that are identical to, or merely variations on, someone else’s work. It will therefore be understood that all assignments submitted to faculty of the Department of Computer Science are to be the original work of the student submitting the assignment, and should be signed in accordance with the provisions of the Honor Code. Appropriate action will be taken when assignments give evidence that they were derived from the work of others.

You are encouraged to periodically review the specifics of the Honor Code as stated in the College Catalogue and The Compass.