

CS 490R – Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Course Syllabus and Calendar – Fall 2010

Professor Don Colton

Brigham Young University Hawaii

1 Course Details

- **Course Number:** CS 490R
- **Title:** Intelligent Systems
- **Course Description:** Fundamental issues in intelligent systems, search and constraint satisfaction, knowledge representation and reasoning. (Prerequisite: CS 301.)
- **Textbook:** *Artificial Intelligence, A Modern Approach, Second Edition*, by: Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig 1080 pages. ISBN: 0-13-790395-2. Prentice Hall.
- **Classroom:** GCB 140
- **Start/End:** Sep 16 to Dec 14, 2010
- **Class Time:** TTh 12:10–1:40 PM
- **Final Exam:** Wed Dec 15 1:00 – 2:50 PM

1.1 The Instructor

- **Instructor (me):** Don Colton
- **My email:** doncolton2@gmail.com
- **Website:** <http://byuh.doncolton.com/>
- **My Office:** GCB 128
- **Office Hour:** MWF 11:00 AM – noon
- **Office Hour:** TTh 9:50 AM – 10:50 AM

2 Why Take This Course?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been a goal of computer scientists since the earliest days of computing. It has benefited and suffered from overblown expectations. It has had seasons of high respect and great disdain. Every computer scientist needs a basic understanding of AI, including its terminology and its accomplishments.

3 Course Content

In this class we will gain the basic understanding of AI that is needed by every computer scientist. We will write several programs that utilize AI technology. We will cover a good part of the book, and will discuss it and learn the terminology.

The book takes a new view to AI, and one that I think is very good. It views the field as having a goal to build intelligent agents. I think this framework makes it easier to understand what AI really is and is not.

4 Attendance

As far as possible we will work together as a team. Our common goal will be the education of each member of the class. On-time arrival will be rewarded by occasional treats and by our ability to cover more ground together. Please come on time.

If you do not attend, you will become disconnected from the team and from the flow of the material. Your interest is likely to grow cold and your odds of passing the course will be greatly reduced. Also, I become depressed if attendance falls off. (Be kind to me.)

Some days are marked “Review/Test” on the course calendar. On those days we will meet in the normal classroom but attendance is not required. Your taking of the exam (in the testing center) counts for attendance on those days.

Due to INS (immigration) and VA (veterans) requirements the Vice President for Student Life is notified whenever a student misses four consecutive class periods.

5 Lecture Policies

My most important goal is for you to develop intuition about the subject matter, and to get unstuck if you have become stuck. Accordingly, I devote as much time as necessary to the answering of your questions, especially when those questions seem to be of general interest to the others in the class. (Questions of narrow interest may be deferred to my office.) Otherwise, the time is generally spent in discussion of some topic or other that is closely related to the material in the textbook. I may pose a problem to the class, and moderate as we work through it together. This can serve as a jump-start for understanding and mastering new material. My method of teaching is based on the view that learning is a shared activity between the teacher and the student, and that learning proceeds most quickly when interaction occurs.

6 Work Load

In the United States, the expectation for accredited university-level course work is that there be an average of three hours of work per week for every hour of credit awarded. In a lecture class this means one hour in class and two hours outside of class. Since this is a three-credit class and we meet three hours a week, this means six hours of work outside of class per week. It is my goal to keep the work load for an average member of the class at these levels.

I require you to read regularly in the textbook. It is excellent. The authors are highly respected, have a nice presentation style, and they know their material. It is a good book. You will benefit from reading it.

There is an average of 20 pages of reading per class hour (about 560 pages for the course). I figure that should take you about two hours, some days more, some days less. Some of the reading is slow and careful but much of it is story. The course calendar lists by chapter and section the topics that will be discussed. To maximize your understanding, you should read the relevant sections before attending class and then review them again after class. Even if we do not discuss all of a chapter, you are responsible for its contents on the tests and final exam. Skim back through them the day before the exam.

Several programming tasks will be assigned. I have

not taught this class before, so I will be experimenting more than usual in my choice of assignments.

Some homework will probably be assigned. Generally reading, programming, and homework together will not exceed three hours per class period. If you find the workload to be heavier than that, please let me know and I will try to back off a bit.

What is the hardest part of the class? I don't know yet, but I suspect it will be the programming.

7 Grading

Grades will be computed on the basis of points earned on reading, homework, quizzes, lab work, and tests. The weighting is as follows:

- 10.0% reading
- 10.0% homework and quizzes
- 46.5% labs
- 43.5% tests
- 100.0% total

Reading: The purpose of the reading is to introduce you to a lot of material and vocabulary used in the AI field. From my reading thus far, my experience is that the reading is too verbose, and speed-reading techniques may be appropriate. It probably varies section by section. We will just have to take it as it comes and see what happens.

Each day in class I will ask each student whether they have completed the reading assigned for that day. I add up the yeses and nos to determine the reading component of the final grade, based on a straight-line computation.

Homework: The purpose of homework is to help you master the course material in a low-stress setting where resources such as the textbook can be consulted in a leisurely way. **Homework in this course can be done with the aid of other students, and answers can be compared.**

Late Homework: Late homework is occasionally accepted if your excuse is good enough and I happen to be in a good mood.

Quizzes: The purpose of quizzes is to show me and you how well you are learning on a topic-by-

topic basis. Most things on the exams show up on quizzes first.

Quiz Makeup: Quizzes cannot be made up except when I approve it in unusual circumstances (including good excuse and good mood).

Labs: The purpose of labs is to experience programming and grow thereby. Programming can be an extreme joy, where time ceases to exist (e.g., “just a minute” can be several hours, but you don’t notice). It can be a great pleasure to cause a machine to obey your will, an inch at a time. Or it can be a nightmare, where nothing seems to work right, and the most insignificant things turn out to have far too much significance, and you pull out great clumps of your hair and hit you head against the wall and want to rush right over to your academic advisor and change majors to something you can actually enjoy instead of this misery. Labs reflect the true reality of computer science life. You should experience them.

All labs will be “open-neighbor” labs in the sense that you can confer with other students and lab assistants. You can show your code to others and look at the code others have written. You can also talk about your code, your approach, your difficulties, and your ideas. You can draw pictures and make analogies and ask me (even me) questions.

Tests: The primary purpose of tests (examinations) is to gauge student learning by measuring performance in a timed and supervised situation. Some memorization may be required.

It is understood that such a situation creates additional stress for many students. For this reason testing is not used exclusively in the grading process. Each test will receive a scaled (normalized) score and a letter grade indicating the final course grade that would be earned by consistent performance at the level reflected on that test.

Testing Center: Except the final exam, most tests are given in the BYUH testing center. The day of the exam we will preview it in class. You can take the exam that same day or the next day. Generally I allow unlimited time but no books or notes.

Test Makeup: Exams cannot be made up except when I approve it in unusual circumstances. This is *very* rare.

Grading Scale: I use the following grading scale, both for individual assignments and for the course as a whole.

93%+	A	90–92.9%	A-	87–89.9%	B+
83–86.9%	B	80–82.9%	B-	77–79.9%	C+
73–76.9%	C	70–72.9%	C-	67–69.9%	D+
63–66.9%	D	60–62.9%	D-	0–59.9%	F

Final Exam: Even though the final exam may count for just a small percentage of your overall grade, you must pass the final exam (60.0% or better) in order to get a C or better in the class.

Other notes: I reserve the right to up-scale the scores on any assignment, exam, or whatever, if I feel the absolute numeric grading is too harsh. The transformation may even be non-linear, but in any case, absolute rank order will be preserved and no score will go down.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss specific instances of grading with you, and to hear your requests for different grades than were initially assigned. In fact, I encourage it. Some very good learning occurs in these settings (for you **and** for me). About half the time I end up agreeing with the request. The best time to do this is during my office hours. As an alternative, you can submit your argument in writing, together with the original graded work.

Final grades are generally issued by email soon after the final exam, or in-person if I feel that some discussion might be beneficial. Students are invited to visit my office to claim any exams or homework that I am still holding, and to discuss their academic progress. Interim progress reports are issued to the students several times during the course, generally after the midterm exams and before the final exam.

8 Communication by Email

When I want to say something, or when you want to say something, if we are not in the same room, my first choice is to do it by email. I far prefer it to telephone calls, for instance. When there is an announcement, I will generally tell you in class or send it to you by email. Such announcements might include clarifications on the homework assignments.

Programming homework is submitted by email from the student to me, and the grading of such homework is returned by email. You will need to maintain an email account and to provide me with a valid email address.

9 Computer Accounts

You should have a computer account in the Computer Science lab (GCB 101). This account gives you access to UNIX systems, software (including compilers and assemblers), email, web surfing, some storage (currently 10 megabytes to start with), and some paper printing (currently 100 pages per CS class). There are also a few modems for dial-in access. You will use your CS account to do the lab work in this class. See me or a lab worker (GCB 101) to get set up.

10 Subject to Change

It is very unlikely that I will make any major changes, but aside from course number, title, and description, I reserve the right to change anything in this syllabus including the grading policies and the course calendar. Important changes are generally communicated in class and by email to those affected. If my changes are unfair to you, let me know. I will try to fix it.

11 Course Calendar

The course calendar is subject to change by me at any time for any reason. To avoid disruption and unhappiness, I avoid changes (especially exam dates) as much as I can. Any substantial change will be communicated in class and by email.

12 Standard Statements

All syllabi are encouraged or required to address certain topics. These are generally considered to be common sense, but we find that it is useful to mention them explicitly anyway.

12.1 Dress and Grooming Standards

The dress and grooming of both men and women should always be modest, neat and clean, consistent with the dignity adherent to representing The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and any of its institutions of higher learning. Modesty and cleanliness are important values that reflect personal dignity and integrity, through which students, staff, and faculty represent the principles and standards of the Church. Members of the BYUH community commit themselves to observe these standards, which reflect the direction given by the Board of Trustees and the Church publication, "For the Strength of Youth." The Dress and Grooming Standards are as follows:

Men. A clean and neat appearance should be maintained. Shorts must cover the knee. Hair should be clean and neat, avoiding extreme styles or colors, and trimmed above the collar leaving the ear uncovered. Sideburns should not extend below the earlobe. If worn, moustaches should be neatly trimmed and may not extend beyond or below the corners of mouth. Men are expected to be clean shaven and beards are not acceptable. (If you have an exception, notify the instructor.) Earrings and other body piercing are not acceptable. For safety, footwear must be worn in all public places.

Women. A modest, clean and neat appearance should be maintained. Clothing is inappropriate when it is sleeveless, strapless, backless, or revealing, has slits above the knee, or is form fitting. Dresses, skirts, and shorts must cover the knee. Hairstyles should be clean and neat, avoiding extremes in styles and color. Excessive ear piercing and all other body piercing are not appropriate. For safety, footwear must be worn in all public places.

12.2 Accommodating Special Needs

Brigham Young University Hawaii is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, you are invited to contact the Students With Special Needs Coordinator at 808-675-3518. Reasonable academic accommodations are made for all students who have qualified documented disabilities.

CS 490R Tentative Course Calendar Fall 2010

mtg	day	date	time	read	Topic	pct
1	Thur	Sep 16	12:10		introduction, syllabus, questionnaire	
2	Tue	Sep 21	12:10	1	introduction	
3	Thur	Sep 23	12:10	2	intelligent agents	
4	Tue	Sep 28	12:10	3	search	
5	Thur	Sep 30	12:10	4	informed search	
6	Tue	Oct 5	12:10	6	agents that reason	
7	Thur	Oct 7	12:10	7	first-order logic	
8	Tue	Oct 12	12:10	9	inference	
9	Thur	Oct 14	12:10		summary: knowledge and reasoning	
10	Tue	Oct 19	12:10	11	planning	
11	Thur	Oct 21	12:10	13	acting	
12	Tue	Oct 26	12:10		summary: action	
	Thur	Oct 28	12:10	off	ISECON	
13	Tue	Nov 2	12:10	14	uncertainty	
14	Thur	Nov 4	12:10	15	probabilistic reasoning	
15	Tue	Nov 9	12:10		summary: uncertainty	
16	Thur	Nov 11	12:10	18	observation	
17	Tue	Nov 16	12:10	19	neural and belief networks	
18	Thur	Nov 18	12:10		summary: learning	
19	Tue	Nov 23	12:10	22	communication	
	Thur	Nov 25	12:10	off	Thanksgiving Thursday	
20	Tue	Nov 30	12:10	24	perception	
21	Thur	Dec 2	12:10		summary: communication	
22	Tue	Dec 7	12:10	26	philosophy	
23	Thur	Dec 9	12:10	27	the future	
24	Tue	Dec 14	12:10		summary: conclusions	
	Wed	Dec 15	1:00		Comprehensive Final Exam	

12.3 Plagiarism

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism> has a wonderful article on plagiarism. Read it if you are not familiar with the term. Essentially, plagiarism is when you present the intellectual work of other people as though it were your own. This may happen by cut-and-paste from a website, or by group work on homework. In some cases, plagiarism may also create a violation of copyright law. If you borrow wording from someone else, identify the source.

Intentional plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft that violates widely recognized principles of academic integrity as well as the Honor Code. Such plagiarism may subject the student to appropriate disciplinary action administered through the university Honor Code Office, in addition to academic sanctions that may be applied by an instructor.

Inadvertent plagiarism, whereas not in violation of the Honor Code, is nevertheless a form of intellectual carelessness that is unacceptable in the academic community. Plagiarism of any kind is completely contrary to the established practices of higher education, where all members of the university are expected to acknowledge the original intellectual work of others that is included in one's own work.

In this course group work is permitted and encouraged but you are not allowed to turn in work that is beyond your understanding, whether you give proper attribution or not. Make sure you understand what you are submitting and why each line is there.

Faculty are responsible to establish and communicate to students their expectations of behavior with respect to academic honesty and student conduct in the course. Observations and reports of academic dishonesty shall be investigated by the instructor, who will determine and take appropriate action, and report to the Honor Code Office the final disposition of any incident of academic dishonesty by completing an Academic Dishonesty Student Violation Report. If the incident of academic dishonesty involves the violation of a public law, e.g., breaking and entering into an office or stealing an examination, the act should also be reported to University Police. If an affected student disagrees with the determination or action and is unable to resolve the matter to the mutual satisfaction of the student and the instructor, the student may have the matter reviewed through the university's grievance process.

12.4 Sexual Harassment

BYUH's policy against sexual harassment complies with federal Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to protect university students from student-to-student sexual harassment both in and out of the classroom setting. Any incidents of such student-to-student harassment should be reported to either the Director of Human Resources (675-3713) or the Honor Code Office (675-3531). Allegations of sexual harassment are taken seriously. Upon receiving a report of sexual harassment, the Director of Human Resources will take appropriate action to resolve and correct conditions resulting from individual perceptions or from inappropriate behavior.

12.5 Syllabus is Subject to Change

It is possible that I will revise aspects of the course as we go along. Any changes I make are likely to be to your advantage. If any of my changes seems unfair to you, let me know. I will try to correct it.