CSE 180 - Introduction to Robotics

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https://sites.ucmerced.edu/scarpin
https//robotics.ucmerced.edu

Administrative Details

Instructor Prof. Stefano Carpin

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00pm-1:00pm (Room SE2-222). Other times by appointment only (to be arranged via email.)

Teaching Assistants

- Marcos Zuzuarregui
- Hamid Rajabi

TAs will communicate their office hours on Canvas

Canvas/CatCourses

- Canvas/CatCourses will be used for all aspects of this class (announcements, slides, assignments, grades, etc.). It is expected that you visit the course site regularly.

Course Materials

- Textbook freely available online: `https://robotics.ucmerced.edu/MRTP`
- Code examples: `https://github.com/stefanocarpin/MRTP`

Course Grading

- Homeworks: 10%
- Labs: 20%
- Final Project: 20%
- Midterm (closed book, October 16, 2025 – date to be confirmed): 20%
- Final (closed book, December 13, 2025) : 30%

Policies

See also syllabus for more details.

Disability Accomodations : https://access.ucmerced.edu/

Academic Honesty : UCM Academic Honesty Policy

Supplemental Computer Science Dept Policy : link

Communications : Email communications for this course must be sent using CatCourses' builtin messaging tool. Emails directly sent to me are likely to receive a belated response or being ignored. Emails not sent from @ucmerced.edu account will not be answered.

Grading Questions : if you have questions about grades, please contact your TA first within 7 days from when the grade is communicated. If you still have questions, concerns, then you can contact me (forwarding all previous email exchanges.)

Classroom etiquette : see expectations posted on CatCourses

Homeworks

- due 7 days after they are assigned.
- must be submitted through catcourses (no exceptions – submissions via email will be rejected).
- grace period: submissions received 72h after the posted deadline will be subject to a 50% penalty; submissions received more than 72h after the deadline will not be graded.
- solutions must be individual. You are encouraged to discuss with others, but when you start writing the solution it must be yours and yours only.
- ChatGPT/AI etc: they can surely solve your assignments, but you will not be allowed to use it during the exams (nor during a job interview ...).

Labs

- you must attend the session have signed up for.
- TAs will assist with ROS specific questions, but will not solve the exercises for you.
- the first week of lab you will setup ROS 2 on your machine or the lab machine; this will be a graded assignment.
- you can use generative AI to solve the assignments; however, the TAs will not help with debugging code generated by LLMs or other AI tools.

Suggestions on how to fail this class

- Skip classes.
- Start studying late.
- Come to class but pay attention to your phone rather than what is being discussed.
- Study only when an assignment/exam approaches.
- Copy your homeworks from others or ChatGPT/Gemini/whatever without trying to understand the solution.
- Count on copying during the exams.