# COURSE POLICIES - CS 6375

**Course Staff**

| | Role | Office hours | Office location | E-mail address | Phone |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anurag Nagar | Instructor | See Syllabus | ECSS 4.610 | axn112530@utdallas.edu | 972-883-6345 |
| TBA | Teaching Assistant | TBA | - | - | - |

**Getting Help**

You will get an email about signing up for an account on the discussion forum, Piazza. General questions about the homework assignments should be posted on Piazza. The course staff will check the Piazza discussion group regularly and answer any questions posted there. For individual questions, please contact the TA first.

**Textbook**

Required:

- Machine Learning, Tom M. Mitchell, McGraw Hill, 1997

Optional:

- Introduction to Machine Learning, 3rd Edition by Alpaydin
- An Introduction to Statistical Learning with Applications in R by James et al
- The Elements of Statistical Learning: Data Mining, Inference, and Prediction by Hastie et al
- Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning by Bishop

The instructor will post notes, slides, and papers on eLearning. They will be the best resources for this class.

**Grading**

The weightage for the various components will be as follows:

- **Homework Assignments: 25%**
  There will be 6 – 8 assignments, including programming assignments, having different weightages.
- **Term Project: 10%**
  You will work in groups to come up with a project involving significant application of machine learning. This will give you experience working with real life datasets and problems.

- **Class Participation and Quizzes: 15%**
  There will be surprise quizzes, reading assignments, tutorial exercises, and classroom participation exercises.
- **Midterm: 25%**
  Will cover syllabus up to that point.
- **Final: 25%**
  Will be comprehensive.

**Grading Policies**

- **Collaboration Policy**
  For assignments, we will use the concept of **pair programming**. This means you will team up with another student in your section of the class to do the assignments. You have to clearly specify the names of the team members on the first page of your report and code. Research shows that pair programming can lead to enhanced productivity and better skill development. Read more about it here:
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pair_programming
  http://collaboration.csc.ncsu.edu/laurie/pair.html

  For the project, you can form a team that consists of 2 to 4 team members from the same section of this class. The complexity of the project should be proportional to the team size. The roles and contributions of each team member should be clearly specified.

  Except what is stated above, no form of collaboration is allowed.

- **Academic Integrity Policy**
  You are expected to maintain the utmost level of academic integrity in the course, in accordance with the academic integrity policy of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System. In particular,
  (a) it is your responsibility to protect your work from unauthorized access, and
  (b) the work you submit is is expected to be your own.
  Academic dishonesty has no place in a university or anywhere else: it wastes our time and yours, and it is unfair to everyone else. Any violation of this code will be penalized, as we take this issue very seriously. You can read more about UTD's academic integrity and academic dishonesty policies at the links below:
  https://www.utdallas.edu/conduct/integrity/
  https://www.utdallas.edu/conduct/dishonesty/

- **Classroom Quiz Policy**
  There will be surprise quizzes in class on a regular basis using eLearning's web based platform. These quizzes can only be taken in class using the password supplied by the instructor. Any sharing of passwords with students outside the class will be considered an academic honesty violation. It is your responsibility to ensure that your computers

are functioning and connected to the internet during the class. You will not be allowed to re-take the quiz due to your computer system failure.

- **Attendance Policy**
  The Computer Science department takes attendance seriously and the official policy states that (see http://cs.utdallas.edu/education/graduate/attendance-policy/):
  1. Absence in three consecutive lectures will result in the course grade being lowered by one letter.
  2. Absence in four consecutive lectures will automatically result in a failing grade (F) in the course.

  The instructor will take regular attendance in class and you will be required to carry your official UTD identification.

- **Late Submission Policy**
  The due date for each assignment and project will be specified on eLearning. You are expected to submit your work on time. We realize that sometimes situations can get out of control and you need extra time. To help with this, you will be allowed a **total** of 4 free late days for use throughout the semester. Late days can only be used for assignments and project, and NOT for labs, reading assignments, quizzes, etc.
  * NOTE: **You have 4 free days for the ENTIRE semester, and NOT 4 days per assignment. After the 4 days have been used up, you will be penalized 10% for each late day**. You will be able to submit each assignment up to 2 days late. After that, the submission link will be closed. If you can't complete an assignment, you can submit whatever you have done and receive partial credit.

- **Incomplete Grade Policy**
  Incomplete grade is possible only in the case of a documented serious medical emergency near the end of the semester.

- **Classroom Citizenship**
  You are expected to be good classroom citizens. The following rules will be observed:
  - No cellphone use in class
  - No laptop use during lectures. There will be classroom exercises, quizzes, and participation activities which will require you to use laptop or tablet devices.
  - Respectful and civil behavior towards fellow students, TA, and instructor is expected and required.
  - Other rules as prescribed by the instructor
  Violation of the above will result in penalties and lowering of your final grade.

**Final Grades**

Final grades will be assigned using relative grading scheme. To get a grade of A, you will need to score well in all the areas and be in the top 25% of the class.

Note that the final grade will be assigned based on your performance in the class. We will not assign grades based on external factors, such as GPA requirement for scholarship, internship, graduation, or maintaining student visa.