



## SYLLABUS

### Introduction to Machine Learning Applications

43672 MGMT-6560-01 (3 credits) / 43510 MGMT-4966-01 (4 Credits)

Spring 2021 Monday & Thursday 12:20 PM – 2:10 PM

Room Location: SAGE 3704 and Webex (<https://rensselaer.webex.com/meet/manikl>)

Websites: <https://spring2021introtoml.github.io/> and Blackboard

Prerequisites or Other Requirements: None.

Students may not receive credit for both the 4000 level and 6000 level versions of this course.

## INSTRUCTOR

**Instructor Name:** Lydia Manikonda

**Office Location:** Pitts 1212

**Tel. No.:** 518-276-2768

**Email Address:** [manikl@rpi.edu](mailto:manikl@rpi.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 12 PM to 2 PM via webex

(<https://rensselaer.webex.com/rensselaer/j.php?MTID=m9947135e55d6894615a6699b2e669e46>)

## Grader

**TA Name(s):** Yuanyuan Liu  
Pittsburgh

**TA Office Location:** 2nd Floor

**TA(s) Email Address:** [liuy55@rpi.edu](mailto:liuy55@rpi.edu)

**TA Office Hours:** Friday 11 am – 1 pm (<https://rensselaer.webex.com/meet/liuy55>)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The widespread proliferation of IT-influenced economic activity leaves behind a rich trail of micro-level data, enabling organizations to use analytics and experimentation in both strategy and operations. This course provides a hands-on introduction to the concepts, methods and processes for machine learning from data, the foundation of artificial intelligence. We will learn how to manipulate data and apply machine learning models to business contexts. **Please find the attached document about the guidelines to students on how the classes will be continued virtually.**

## COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course will be to provide the technical foundation to enable students to become data scientists.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

For MGMT6560 through this course you are expected to:

- (1) Demonstrate an understanding of analytics-based problem solving and analytics thinking in the context of machine learning models, deep learning, and big data.
- (2) Be able to extract, match, transform, and clean data from a variety of sources.
- (3) Develop machine learning predictions for business applications.
- (4) Apply ethical frameworks to the creation of models.
- (5) Translate research on state of the art deep learning to business applications.

For MGMT4966, through this course you are expected to:

- (1) Demonstrate an understanding of analytics-based problem solving and analytics thinking in the context of machine learning models, deep learning, and big data.
- (2) Be able to extract, match, transform, and clean data from a variety of sources.
- (3) Develop machine learning predictions for business applications.

## COURSE REFERENCE MATERIALS

There is no text book that adequately covers all of the conceptual and technical issues we will be covering in this course. However, there are a number of different books that we will assign readings from. These books are available online with links from the course website specifically the below mentioned textbook:

Author. Aurélien Géron

Title. Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow: Concepts, Tools, and Techniques to Build Intelligent Systems

ISBN. • ISBN-10: 1492032646 • ISBN-13: 978-1492032649

Edition. 2nd Edition

Website: <https://github.com/ageron/handson-ml2>

## COURSE ASSESSMENT MEASURES

### Assignments

You will have assignments associated with many classes. Be sure to check the course website and submit assignments via blackboard. Preparing the case questions in advance is expected to help you participate and contribute to class discussion.

You will have 3 days of “late” time for sickness/deadline conflicts. You must send a Webex teams message or email to the instructor prior to the due date. After that there will be a reduction of 20% per day for each late day.

### Quizzes

There will be several surprise quizzes through the semester to incentivize you to review the readings prior to class and arrive on time. The door will be locked at the start of class on a quiz day and you will receive a 0 if you arrive late.

### Project

There will be an individual data assignment to be completed as part of the class. The overall goal is to undergo all stages of the data understanding, data munging, visualization, modelling, and further development of understanding.

### Research Translation Exercise

The student should read a recent research paper from a leading machine learning conference (ICLR/NIPS/AAAI etc.) and explain the problem being solved, why the problem is important, the findings, and the business implications in non-technical language suitable for managers.

## GRADING CRITERIA

All grading is out of 100%. Grade breakdown and feedback will be given through the course learning management system.

### MGMT6560 (3 Credits):

Component	Weight
Assignments and Quizzes	15%
Research Translation Exercise	5%
Project*	25%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	30%

### MGMT4966 (4 Credits):

Component	Weight
Assignments and Quizzes	20%
Project*	25%
Midterm	25%

Final Exam	30%
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Students in MGMT6560 level cannot receive “D/D+/D-” grades.

Students should check LMS for grades on assignments.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

**PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE TO CLASS.** A maximum of 2 unexcused absences are allowed. Further absences will result in a 10% reduction of Homework/Lab grades.

Labs are designed to be worked on during class time in a collaborative environment in which you each help one another. We have very different levels of technical expertise in the class, and it is important to work together on the labs to help one another in a classroom environment. While you may be able to complete the work at home by yourself, in doing so you will be robbing your classmates of your expertise. I will consider helping behaviours during the class as part of the participation component of the class.

Therefore, the imperative clearly stated: each participant attends class fully prepared, willing and able to offer constructive criticism, provide goal-oriented analytic and synthetic insights, and encourage investigative dialectic. You earn your grade on participation through consistent, daily contribution. Merely "COMING TO CLASS" is not sufficient, but is necessary.

Simply put: Do not miss class hours or group meetings! Understandably, there are circumstances (e.g., job interviews, family matters, extracurricular activity, etc.) that may cause you to miss class; nevertheless, excessive absences will reduce your class participation grade. Notify the instructor and group IN ADVANCE of any planned absences (especially students who participate in extracurricular activities as representatives of RPI.)

## OTHER COURSE POLICIES

After the add deadline, assignments up to 24 hours late will have their grade reduced by 25%; assignments up to one week late will have their grade reduced by 50%. After one week, late assignments will receive no credit. Please turn in your assignment early if there is any uncertainty about your ability to turn it in on time.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Student-teacher relationships are built on trust. For example, students must trust that teachers have made appropriate decisions about the structure and content of the courses they teach, and teachers must trust that the assignments that students turn in are their own. Acts that violate this trust undermine the educational process. The Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Graduate Student Supplement

(For Graduate courses) define various forms of Academic Dishonesty and you should make yourself familiar with these. In this class, all assignments that are turned in for a grade must represent the student's own work. In cases where help was received, or teamwork was allowed, a notation on the assignment should indicate your collaboration. Submission of any assignment that is in violation of this policy will result in a **grade of zero will be given on the first assignment where a violation is detected, and the infraction will be reported to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. If there is a subsequent infraction the student will receive a grade of F for the course.**

If you have any question concerning this policy before submitting an assignment, please ask for clarification.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss your options.

To establish reasonable accommodations, please register with The Office of Disability Services for Students (<mailto:dss@rpi.edu>; 518-276-8197; 4226 Academy Hall). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion."

## COURSE CALENDAR

*This is a tentative schedule and subject to change depending upon the progress of the class. Always check course website for the latest updates.*

Wk	Day	Date	Topic	Deadlines
1	M	1/25	Course Overview & Introduction to the Data Science Lifecycle	
1	Th	1/28	Python Basics; HW1	
2	M	2/1	Python conditionals, loops, functions, aggregating.	
2	Th	2/4	Python conditionals, loops, functions, aggregating (continued); HW2	HW1 due
3	M	2/8	Python visualization, data manipulation , and feature creation.	
3	Th	2/11	Python visualization, data manipulation , and feature creation	HW2 due
4	M	2/15	President's day holiday – NO CLASS	
4	Th	2/18	Overview of Modeling; HW3	
5	M	2/22	Overview of Modeling	
5	Th	2/25	Modeling evaluation; HW4	HW3 due
6	M	3/1	Features and Dimensionality Reduction	
6	Th	3/4	Regression and Decision Trees; HW5	HW4 due
7	M	3/8	Regression and Decision Trees	
7	Th	3/11	Unsupervised Models; HW6	HW5 due
8	M	3/15	Unsupervised Models	
8	Th	3/18	Project description; Text and NLP	HW6 due
9	M	3/22	Text and NLP	
9	Th	3/25	Midterm Exam (in-class); HW7	EXAM
10	M	3/29	Time Series Analysis; Advanced supervised models	
10	Th	4/1	Project 1-slide presentations; HW8	HW7 due
11	M	4/5	Advanced supervised models	
11	Th	4/8	Image Data	HW8 due
12	M	4/12	Image Data and Deep Learning	
12	Th	4/15	Image Data and Deep Learning	
13	M	4/19	Automl and Model packages, search	
13	Th	4/22	Reinforcement Learning	
14	M	4/26	Final Presentations	
14	Th	4/29	Final Presentations and report due	Project report due
15	M	5/3	Final Exam (in-class)	

# COVID-19 Syllabus Guidelines – Lally School of Management

Students taking Lally School of Management classes are required to abide by the **COVID-19 code of conduct** below. This code will apply to any class that meets fully or partially in an on-campus physical classroom for in-person instruction.

**Violations:** Refusal to comply with the COVID-19 code of conduct will be treated just as any classroom disruption, which will receive request for immediate compliance, failing which the student will be asked to leave the classroom. Any further noncompliance will result in the dismissal of the entire class. All Covid-19 related violations will be reported by the instructor to the Compliance Officer at Lally School, and the Dean of Students. A student found to be in violation of the code, or required repeated reminders for compliance, will be asked to participate in all classes remotely. This is to protect their health and safety as well as the health and safety of their classmates, instructor, and the university community.

**Masks:** All students must wear a mask in classrooms and all public places including anywhere inside Pittsburgh building. Masks will be provided to the student by the Institute.

**Traffic Flow and Social Distancing:** Students and faculty will respect the need for social distancing. They are required to follow the traffic flow arrows posted in all rooms and buildings, including bathrooms and common areas.

**In-Class Seating:** Students should sit in the appropriate designated seating in the classroom. Students are not allowed to move furniture or sit in seats not designated by the Institute.

**Cleaning of Spaces:** Students are encouraged to clean the surfaces of the chairs/tables/desks they occupy before they sit down and as they prepare to leave. Cleaning and sanitizing solutions will be provided the classroom.

**Students who are ill, under quarantine for COVID-19, or suspect they are ill should not come to class.** All faculty will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the student's absence and will communicate that accommodation directly to the student. Students who need to report an illness should contact the [Student Health Center](#) via [email](#) or call 518-276-6287. For student seen off campus, a student may request an excused absence via [www.bit.ly/rpiabsence](http://www.bit.ly/rpiabsence) with an uploaded doctor's note that excuses them.