

# Syllabus

## COMP 343

### Artificial Intelligence

Fall 2016

## 1 Logistics

- **Where:** Center for Science and Business, Room 303
- **When:** MTWF, 1–1:50pm
- **Instructor:** James *Logan* Mayfield
  - *Office:* Center for Science and Business, Room 344
  - *Phone:* 309-457-2200
  - *Email:* lmayfield at monmouthcollege dot edu
  - *Website:* <https://jlmayfield.github.io/>
  - *Office Hours:* By Appointment.
- **Course Website:** <https://jlmayfield.github.io/MC-COMP343>
- **Credits:** 1 course credit

*Note: Parts of this Syllabus are subject to change based on specific class needs.*

## 2 Texts

Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig. 2009. *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach (3rd ed.)*. Prentice Hall Press, Upper Saddle River, NJ, USA.

## 3 Programming Language and Environment

This course will use a mixture of languages and programming environments including Python and Matlab/Octave. When a particular language is required, it will be made available through one or more of the departmental servers. On some assignments students will be allowed to use whatever language they choose so long as they can carry out a live demo of their work to the class and instructor.

## 4 Description, Content, and Goals

In this course we undertake a rigorous study of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in which we operationalize the task of building an *Artificially Intelligent Agent*. Our ultimate goal is to know what it means to pursue an AI solution to a problem, how to pose that problem and its solution in an objective, measurable fashion, and survey the classic techniques used in AI today.

This course will utilize chapters from parts I, II, IV, and V of the text. Topics covered include:

- AI History (Chapter 1)
- The Intelligent Agent Approach (Chapter 2)
- Problem-Solving as Search (Chapter 3)
- Local Search (Chapter 4)
- Adversarial Search (Chapter 5)
- Probability and Uncertainty (Chapter 13)
- Probabilistic Reasoning (Chapter 14)
- Learning from Examples (Chapter 18)
- Reinforcement Learning (Chapter 20)

Other sections of the text will be used as needed and as time permits. Students will have the opportunity to explore topics and chapters beyond this selection through their literature review project.

## 5 Expectations and Policies

You are expected to carry yourself in a mature and professional manner in this course. Towards this end, there are a few classroom policies by which you are expected to abide.

- *Late Assignments:* In general, late assignments will *not* be accepted. If you feel you have a justified reason for the assignment being late you may set up an appointment to meet with the instructor and plead your case. Situations beyond your control are understandable and exceptions can and will be made.
- *Attendance:* **Repeated absences and late arrivals to class will quickly reduce your participation grade to zero.** The occasional late arrival or missed class is one thing, but being habitually late and regularly missing classes is disruptive and not fair to your classmates.
- *Participation:* Cellphone and computer usage in class for non-class related activities is strongly discouraged. All devices should be set to silent when in class. If your usage of technology becomes a distraction to your classmates or your instructor, then your participation grade will suffer. If you're not sure if your being a distraction, then err on the side of caution and assume your distracting someone. Put another way, if the instructor or a classmate has to tell you you're distracting them, then you've already gone too far.
- *Quality of Work:* There are several minimal requirements that your assignments must meet.
  - *Electronic Submissions:* When work is submitted electronically, then it is your responsibility to be certain you know and understand the system for doing so and to be sure your work is properly submitted. Not following the instructions for assignment submission can mean your assignment does not get submitted and will be considered late.
  - *Staples:* Assignments that take up more than one page must be stapled. Unstapled assignments will either be returned to you to be stapled ASAP or points will be deducted.
  - *Neatness:* Make every attempt to make your work neat and orderly: label problems, avoid excessive scratching out of mistakes (use pencil if you are prone to errors) and if you use spiral bound paper tear off the edges. Put your name on your work!
  - *Show Work:* Rarely are answers alone sufficient for full credit. Show your work whenever prudent. If you're unsure if work is needed, *ask!*

## 5.1 Collaboration

In general, you are encouraged to make use of the resources available to you. This means it is OK to seek help from a friend, tutor, instructor, internet, etc. However, *copying of answers and any act worthy of the label of “cheating” is never permissible!* It is understandable that when you work with a partner or a group that the resultant product is often extremely similar. This is acceptable but be prepared to be asked to defend your collaborations to the instructor. *You should always be able to reproduce an answer on your own, and if you cannot you likely **do not really known the material**.* All of the Monmouth College rules on academic dishonesty apply. If you violate the rules be prepared to face the consequences of your actions.

## 6 Grades

This courses uses a standard grading scale. Assignments and final grades will not be curved except in rare cases when its deemed necessary by the instructor. Percentage grades translate to letter grades as follows:

Score	Grade
94–100	A
90–93	A-
88–89	B+
82–87	B
80–81	B-
78–79	C+
72–77	C
70–71	C-
68–69	D+
62–67	D
60–61	D-
0–59	F

You are always welcome to challenge a grade that you feel is unfair or calculated incorrectly. Mistakes made in your favor will never be corrected to lower your grade. Mistakes made not in your favor will be corrected. *Basically, after the initial grading your score can only go up as the result of a challenge.*

### 6.1 Workload

In addition to a standard set of exams and quizzes, the course workload will consist of problems assigned from the book, two larger programming projects, and a literature review paper with accompanying presentation. Homework problems will often be given some in class, in group time.

Category	Number of Assignments
Homework Assignments	5–7
Programming Projects	2–3
Literature Review Paper with Presentation	1
Final	1
Midterm	1
Quizzes	3

### 6.2 Grade Weights

Your final grade is based on a weighted average of particular assignment categories. You should be able to estimate your current grade based on your scores and these weights. You may always visit the instructor *outside of class time* to discuss your current standing.

Category	Weight
Homework	15%
Programming Projects	20%
Paper + Presentation	20%
Final	15%
Midterm	10%
Quizzes	10%
Participation	10%

### 6.3 Course Engagement Expectations

The weekly workload for this course will vary by student but on average should be about 11.5 hours per week. The follow tables provides a rough estimate of the distribution of this time over different course components for a 15 week semester.

Lectures+Final		4 hours/week
Homework/Programs	60 hours	4 hours/week
Exam Study Time	8 hours	0.5 hours/week
Quiz Study Time	8 hours	0.5 hours/week
Paper/Presentation	22.5 hours	1.5 hours/week
Reading+Unstructured Study		2 hours/week
		12.5 hours/week

#### 6.3.1 Calendar

The following calendar should give you a feel for how work is distributed throughout the semester. Assignments and events are listed in the week they are due or when the occur. *This calendar is subject to change based on the circumstances of the course.*

Week	Dates	Assignments
1	8/23–8/26	
2	8/29–9/2	
3	9/5–9/9	
4	9/12–9/16	
6	9/19–9/23	
7	9/26–9/30	
8	10/3–10/7	
9	10/10–10/11	Midterm Exam (Tu). FALL BREAK (W-F).
10	10/17–10/21	
11	10/24–10/28	
12	10/31–11/4	
13	11/7–11/11	
14	11/14–11/18	
15	11/21–11/22	THANKSGIVING BREAK (W-F).
16	11/28–12/2	
17	12/5–12/7	READING DAY (Th.)
Final's Week	12/10 (11:30am-2:30pm)	Final Exam.