

# CS3610, Fall 2015

## Artificial Intelligence

### General Information

Instructor: Ben Schafer  
Email: [schafer@cs.uni.edu](mailto:schafer@cs.uni.edu)  
Office: 316 ITTC, phone 273-2187  
Office Hours:

- MWF, 9:00-9:50 AM
- MWF, 11:00-11:50 AM
- MWF, 1:00-1:50 PM
- Anytime my office door is open or by appointment

### Class Info

**Time and Place:** MWF 10:00-10:50, ITTC 328

**Required Text:** *Artificial Intelligence : A Modern Approach (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)* Russell and Norvig, (ISBN 0136042597)

**Supplemental Texts:** Our library contains several very good textbooks on Artificial Intelligence. You may find these helpful for providing different examples/perspectives, or preparing for your research projects. Several reasonable texts are listed in the “links” section of the class website although almost anything is a good supplement.

**Class Website:** <http://www.cs.uni.edu/~schafer/courses/3610/> This is part of my personal web space and will be the main website for the course. It will contain lecture notes, assignments, announcements and supplemental class materials

### Course Structure and Policies

**Class sessions** – Our class meetings will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, and in-class exercises. While sometimes this material will reinforce your readings, it will often extend this material beyond what you find in your textbook. Therefore, attendance is essential. You are expected to read assigned topics prior to the class session (an “active” schedule will be frequently updated on the main website) and to participate actively in class.

**Homework assignments** – Over the course of the semester, you will complete several writing assignments (talking about issues in the field, or concepts from class) and programming assignments (applying techniques learned in class, writing code, and doing experiments with publicly available AI languages/toolkits). I encourage you to discuss homework assignments with your classmates in order to help you understand the problems and to encounter different points of view. However, **any work you submit must be your own**. Discuss ideas, but write your own answers. You should acknowledge any collaborations and/or external sources in the work you submit. Undocumented or unacceptable collaboration will be considered a form of academic dishonesty (see below).

**Research paper** – You will work with one or more of your classmates to co-author one research paper during the semester. This paper will give you an opportunity to explore a topic in some detail and to go through the process of preparing a research document. Writing is an indispensable skill for any computing professional. I hope that you will use this paper as an opportunity to improve your professional writing skills. The process of writing this paper will involve multiple deliverables over the semester.

**Written Exams** – There will be five written exams during the semester. Four will be “mid-term” exams, while the other will be the scheduled final exam for the course. The exams are closed book exams unless clearly announced otherwise. The dates of each exam are published on the class website and are not likely to change. If you are aware of conflicts prior to the exam please make me aware of these as early as possible.

I try to accommodate student needs whenever possible, but I can only do so if I know about them. If you ever have to make alternate arrangements for a class session, an assignment, or an exam, contact me *in advance whenever possible*. The safest way to make such arrangements is by notifying me via e-mail or phone of your circumstances and of how you can be reached.

All assignments are due at their assigned date and time. In order to receive partial credit, always submit your best effort at that time. In most cases **late work will not be accepted for a grade**.

## Grading

The following approximate points/weighting will be used in assigning final grades. This may shift slightly if I add or subtract an assignment.

Activity	Estimated Points (approx. %)
Homework	200 (28.6%)
Research Paper	200 (28.6%)
Mid-term exams	200 (28.6%)
Final exam	100 (14.3%)

Grading for this course is on an absolute scale. Once points are combined, final grades will be assigned based on cut off points no “higher” than:

- $90.0\% < x \leq 100.0\%$  A
- $80.0\% < x \leq 90.0\%$  B
- $70.0\% < x \leq 80.0\%$  C
- $60.0\% < x \leq 70.0\%$  D
- $0.0\% < x \leq 60.0\%$  F

However, there are a few exceptions to this:

- I reserve the right to lower your final grade in the course by one grade "level" (for example, from a B+ to a B) for each assignment for which you fail to submit at least some evidence of effort towards completion. If an assignment has you completely stumped but you gave it some effort, and then show me that you made that effort. I can tolerate confusion; I can't tolerate people too lazy to even attempt the assignment.
- I reserve the right to lower your grade if you do not adequately participate with your co-authors in the process of writing the research paper.

## Incompletes

Incompletes are awarded only in very rare instances when an unforeseeable event causes a student who has completed all the other coursework to date to be unable to complete a small portion of the work in the last week or two of the semester (typically the final project or exam). Incompletes will not be awarded for foreseeable events including a heavy course load or a poorer-than-expected performance. Verifiable documentation must be provided for the incomplete to be granted, and arrangements for the incomplete should be made as soon as such an unforeseeable event is apparent.

## Scholastic Conduct

You are responsible for being familiar with the University's Academic Ethics

Policies:<http://www.uni.edu/pres/policies/301.shtml>

Copying from other students is expressly forbidden. Doing so on exams or assignments will be penalized every time it is discovered. The penalty can vary from zero credit for the copied items (first offense) up to a failing grade for the course. If an assignment makes you realize you don't understand the material, ask a fellow student a question designed to improve your understanding, *not* one designed to get the assignment done. Your final submission for assignments should be **individual, original** work unless otherwise specified. Any substantive contribution to your solution by another person or taken from a publication should be properly acknowledged in writing. Failure to do so is plagiarism and will necessitate disciplinary action. In addition to the activities we can all agree are cheating (plagiarism, bringing notes to a closed book exam, etc), assisting or collaborating on cheating is cheating. Cheating can result in failing the course and/or more severe disciplinary actions.

Remember: Discussing assignments is good. Copying code or answers is not.

## Class Distractions

We live in a technological society, and many of you now carry a variety of electronic distractions with you. These include cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, etc. While you are welcome to own and use these, and other, electronic devices, their use in the classroom is forbidden without my explicit permission (This is a University-wide policy).

A few exceptions do exist, and I reserve the right to approve these situations on a case-by-case basis with prior notification. Unless we have discussed it in advance, all electronic devices should be turned off and left out of sight during class time. The inappropriate use of any of these devices will cause you to receive a participation grade of negative one point regardless of your participation otherwise. Multiple infractions may cause more extreme consequences, including removal from the course.

## Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides protection from discrimination for qualified individuals with disabilities. Students with a disability, who require assistance, will need to contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) for coordination of academic accommodations. The ODS is located at 213 Student Services Center. Their phone number is 319/273-2676. Additionally, please contact me immediately if you have a learning or physical disability requiring accommodation