



WPI

CS 534

Artificial Intelligence

Week 1: Course Introduction

By

Ben C.K. Ngan

Instructor and GLA Information

- **Name:** Ben C.K. Ngan (He/Him/His), Ph.D.
- **Email:** Canvas Course Email or AI Community Discord (Both are Highly Recommended)
- **Virtual Office:**
 - Office Hours:
 - 1:00 p.m. ~ 2:00 p.m. on Both **Monday** and **Wednesday**
 - By Appointment
 - Office Location: <https://wpi.zoom.us/j/5665766927>
- **Course Grader:** Keerthi Vemula Murali (She/Her/hers)
 - Office Hours:
 - 1:00 p.m. ~ 2:00 p.m. on Both **Tuesday** AND **Thursday**
 - By Appointment
 - Office Location: <https://wpi.zoom.us/j/98072555352>

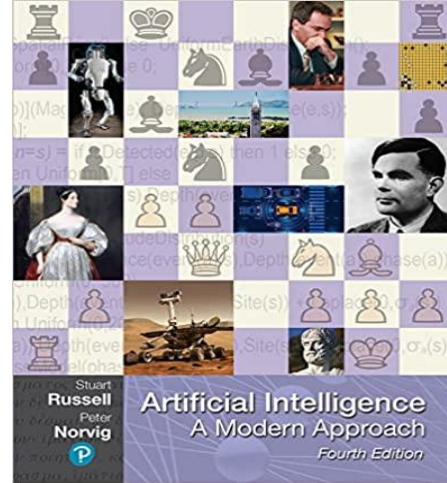
Note that we aim to respond to your messages within 12 hours, when possible.

Recommended Background

- Recommended Prerequisites: Familiarity with data structures, algorithms, and high-level programming languages is required. Python would be strongly recommended.
- Some basic knowledge in math models, algorithms, logic, machine/deep learning, natural language processing, computer vision, etc., is highly desired and helpful.
- Highly Recommended or Related Background:
 - CS 2102. OBJECT-ORIENTED DESIGN CONCEPTS
 - CS 2223. ALGORITHMS
 - CS 3133. FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
 - CS 5007. INTRODUCTION TO APPLICATIONS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE WITH DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS
 - CS 5084. INTRODUCTION TO ALGORITHMS: DESIGN AND ANALYSIS
- If you don't have the recommended background, you may like to consider taking CS 534 later.

Reference Book and Code Resources

- Main Reference Textbook



<http://aima.cs.berkeley.edu/>

- O'Reilly Books Online

- <http://go.oreilly.com/worcester-polytechnic-institute>

- Username: "Your WPI Email ID"

- Password: "Your WPI Email Password"

CS 534 is **NOT** a programming class.

CS 534 focuses on discussing and understanding AI-related methods and algorithms **NOT** teaching how to do the coding. Coding will not be covered and discussed in this course.

However, I will deliver some program code demonstrations, if needed, related to each-week topic.

All the sample codes for those methods and algorithms have been provided on

<https://github.com/aimacode/aima-python> or other public available resources.

Course Description and Objectives

- **Description:**

- Deductive Reasoning: We will cover general knowledge representation techniques and strategies, including intelligent agents, problem solving, different searching algorithms, etc.
- Inductive Learning: We will also study three important areas in AI: machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing.

- **Objectives:**

- Students will acquire knowledge on the concepts and problems from classical as well as state-of-the-art areas of AI.
- Students will develop a deeper understanding of some of the most important methods and algorithms in AI.
- Students will learn to work in a team and jointly apply their skills to solve real-world problems.
- Students will learn how AI technologies have been widely used in the real-world industries.

Assessment/Submission/Grading

- **Assessment:**
 - **Individual Project (IP) Assignments (30%)**
 - 3 Assignments
 - IP1: 25 Points (Self-Introduction Assignment)
 - IP2 and IP3: 100 Points Each
 - **Group Project Assignments (50%)**
 - Number of Students Per Team (To Be Announced)
 - 4-Phases Project and **Peer Review Forms**
 - Final Online-synchronous Project Presentation **from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on 07/30/2025 (Wednesday). Please mark it down in your calendar.**
 - **Discussion Forums (20%)**
 - 2 Discussion Forms
 - Each student provides their comments and thoughts based upon the forum topic.
 - Each student also needs to provide constructive feedbacks and responses to at least two other classmates' posts. Ideally, those classmates should not be his or her project members.
- **AI Course Community on Discord:** Will be Released on **06/02/2025** After the Add/Drop Period
- **Submission:**
 - A Zip File, Including One PDF File with the Program Codes, if applicable
 - No Late Submission Expected or a 10% of the Graded Score Penalty Per Day
 - Partial Credits are provided.

Final Course Grade

Final course grades will be awarded and scaled based on the follow performance of the class.

Letter Grade	GPA	Numerical Grade
A	4.0	90 - 100
B	3.0	80 - 89
C	2.0	70 - 79
D	1.0	60 - 69
F	0.0	< 60

Note that active class participation will be considered in determining the final course grade in the marginal situation.



Pronoun and Inclusivity Statements

- **Pronoun Statement:**


- At WPI, we are a community that stands for civility and respect. We stand for acceptance of others and champion those who may need compassion and understanding. We are an inclusive community that respects peaceful discord and upholds a fundamental belief that all members of our community should feel safe ("WPI Values Statement"). As such, in this classroom, I expect that we will all refer to and respect people using the names and personal pronouns that they share. If you have any questions, please ask me and/or refer to <https://pronouns.org/>.

- **Inclusivity Statement:** The students and instructor are expected to take Diversity, Equity and Inclusion seriously. The class acknowledges and actively promotes the following:
 - Individual differences (e.g., personality, learning styles, life experiences)
 - Group/social differences (e.g., race/ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, country of origin, physical or cognitive abilities, as well as cultural, political, or religious affiliation)
 - An atmosphere of well-being and inclusion in the classroom
 - Fair treatment of all classroom participants regardless of their background


Canvas: Add Your Personal Pronouns to Your Canvas Profile




Account




Dashboard




Courses




Calendar




Inbox



History



Commons



Chun-Kit Ngan's settings

Notifications

Files


Settings

Shared Content

Folio

QR for Mobile Login

Global Announcements



Chun-Kit Ngan's Settings

Full Name:* Chun-Kit Ngan
This name will be used for grading.

Display Name: Chun-Kit Ngan
People will see this name in discussions, messages and comments.


Sortable Name: Ngan, Chun-Kit
This name appears in sorted lists.

Pronouns: he/him/his
This pronoun will appear after your name when enabled

Language: System Default (English (United States))

Time Zone: Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Maintenance windows: 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 2:05am to 4:05am (Thursday from 6:05am to 8:05am UTC)
Next window: Thu Sep 7, 2023 from 2:05am to 4:05am

Maintenance windows begin July 2021. For details please see the [release notes](#) .


Ways to Contact


Email Addresses

cngan@WPI.EDU

[+ Email Address](#)

Other Contacts	Type
+ Contact Method	

 Edit Settings

 Download Submissions

Course Content and Schedule

Please check the Canvas web page and the separate documents.