Course Outline

1. COURSE INFORMATION

Session Offered	Winter 2024
Course Name	Visual Perception for Autonomous Vehicles
Course Code	SEP 742
Date(s) and Time(s) of lectures	Lectures (In-person): Wed 8:30 am – 11:30 am
Program Name	System and Technology
Calendar Description	This course will introduce students to the main perception tasks in autonomous vehicles, static and dynamic object detection, and will survey common computer vision methods for robotic perception. Students will apply these methods to visual odometry, object detection and tracking, semantic segmentation and many more tasks. These techniques represent the main building blocks of the perception system for self-driving cars. This is an advanced course, intended for learners with a background in deep learning. To succeed in this course, students should have programming experience in Python, and familiarity with Linear Algebra.
Instructor	Wael Brahim — E-Mail: brahimw@mcmaster.ca Office Hours: upon request

2. COURSE SPECIFICS

Course Description			

Instruction Type	Code	Type	Hours per term
	C	Classroom instruction	39
	L	Laboratory, workshop or fieldwork	
	T	Tutorial	
	DE	Distance education	
		Total Hours	39

Resources	ISBN	Textbook Title & Edition	Author & Publisher
		Hands-On Vision and Behavior for Self-Driving Cars	Luca Venturi and Krishtof Korda
		Computer Vision: A Modern Approach	David Forsyth and Jean Ponce
		Deep Learning	Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio and Aaron Courville

Prerequisite(s)	*SEP 740*
Corequisite(s)	
Antirequisite(s)	
Course Specific Policies	All work must be shown to get full credit. *Specific policy of Projects/Assignments submissions:* *Projects/Assignments* will be conducted online by using related software. Completed *Projects/Assignments* should be uploaded to the drop box before midnight of the due date. *Projects/Assignments* missed due to legitimate reasons must be completed later mutually agreed with the instructor.

| Departmental Policies | The use of cell phones, iPods, laptops and other personal electronic devices are prohibited from the classroom during the class time, unless the instructor makes an explicit exception.
Announcements made in class or placed on Avenue are considered to have been communicated to all students including those individuals that are not in class.
Instructor has the right to submit work to software to identify plagiarism. | |

3. SUB TOPIC(S)

Week 1 (Jan 10)	Introduction to autonomous vehicles	
Week 2 (Jan 17)	Computer Vision Basics Part 1	
Week 3 (Jan 24)	Computer Vision Basics Part 2	
Week 4 (Jan 31)	Computer Vision Basics Part 3	Assignment 1
Week 5 (Feb 7)	Machine Learning Part 1	
Week 6 (Feb 14)	Mid-term recess Monday, February 19 to Sunday, February 25	
Week 7 (Feb 21)	Machine Learning Part 2	Assignment 2
Week 8 (Feb 28)	Artificial Neural Networks	
Week 9 (Mar 6)	Deep Learning Part 1	
Week 10 (Mar 13)	Deep Learning Part 2	Assignment 3
Week 11 (Mar 20)	Project Workshop 1	
Week 12 (Mar 27)	Project Workshop 2	
Week 13 (Apr 3)	Project Presentations	Final Project
Week 14 (Apr 10)	Project Presentations	

Classes end: April 10th

4. ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

	Weight
Assignment 1: Computer Vision (Deliverable: Report and Source Code)(Due Date: Week 4)	10%
Assignment 2: Machine Learning (Deliverable: Report and Source Code)(Due Date: Week 7)	20%
Assignment 3: Deep Learning (Deliverable: Report and Source Code) (Due Date: Week 10)	30%
Final Project: Final Project (Deliverable: Report, Presentation and Source Code) (Due Date: Week 13)	40%
TOTAL	100%

Note that the percentage distribution of each module may be adjusted.
Percentage grades will be converted to letter grades and grade points per the University calendar.

5. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. work with OpenCV, Python, Keras and Tensorflow
2. perform camera calibration, detect, describe, and match image features.
3. design and train convolutional neural network models
4. understand the intuitions behind 2D/3D computer vision methods in autonomous vehicles.
5. apply these AI-powered methods to object detection and tracking in autonomous vehicles.

6. COURSE OUTLINE – APPROVED ADVISORY STATEMENTS

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

The Faculty of Engineering is concerned with ensuring an environment that is free of all discrimination. If there is a problem, individuals are reminded that they should contact the Associate Director, Graduate Studies, the Sexual Harassment Officer or the Human Rights Consultant, as soon as possible.
http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/General/HR/Discrimination_Harassment_Sexual_Harassment-Prevention&Response.pdf

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

COMMUNICATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to:

- Maintain current contact information with the University, including address, phone numbers, and emergency contact information.
- Use the University provided e-mail address or maintain a valid forwarding e-mail address.
- Regularly check the official University communications channels. Official University communications are considered received if sent by postal mail, by fax, or by e-mail to the student's designated primary e-mail account via their @mcmaster.ca alias.
- Accept that forwarded e-mails may be lost and that e-mail is considered received if sent via the student's @mcmaster.ca alias.
- Check the McMaster/Avenue email and course websites on a regular basis during the term.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities policy.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests. http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/Studentcode.pdf

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.