

# CSCI 3223: Machine Learning II Syllabus

Spring 2026

Oklahoma City University, Petree College of Arts & Sciences, Computer Science

## 1. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION & COURSE MATERIAL

**Instructor:** Tashfeen, Ahmad (SSM 202C, [tashfeen@okcu.edu](mailto:tashfeen@okcu.edu)<sup>1</sup>).

**Office Hours:** Mondays, Wednesdays during 11:00 AM–1:30 PM or by appointment.<sup>2</sup>

**Textbook:** Mitchell, Tom. *Machine Learning*. McGraw Hill, 1997.

**Time & Location:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday during 10–10:50 AM in room 110 of the Sarkey's Center.

## 2. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Event	(%)
1		
2	Homework 1	10
3		
4	Homework 2	10
5		
6	Homework 3	10
7		
8	Midterm	20
9		
10	Spring Break	
11	Homework 4	10
12		
13	Homework 5	10
14		
15	Homework 6	10
16		
17	Final	20

TABLE 1. This may change depending upon class progress.

## 3. GRADING CRITERIA

When accepted, work that is  $n < 3$  days late will receive no more than  $100(1 - 0.1n)\%$  of credit. That is 10% deduction for each day late. For certain assignments and tasks, late work will not be accepted. Any submission that is not easy to read will receive a zero. We highly encourage you to **typeset your homework**.

Total $t\%$	Grade	Total $t\%$	Grade	Total $t\%$	Grade
		$t \geq 93$	A	$93 > t \geq 90$	A <sup>-</sup>
$90 > t \geq 85$	B <sup>+</sup>	$85 > t \geq 82$	B	$82 > t \geq 80$	B <sup>-</sup>
$80 > t \geq 75$	C <sup>+</sup>	$75 > t \geq 72$	C	$72 > t \geq 70$	C <sup>-</sup>
$70 > t \geq 65$	D <sup>+</sup>	$65 > t \geq 62$	D	$62 > t \geq 60$	D <sup>-</sup>
$60 > t$	F				

TABLE 2. Please also see subsection 4.3.

<sup>1</sup>Prefix [XXXX1234] followed by a space to all emails sent to the instructor, e. g., “[CSCI2114] Help with Homework 7.”

<sup>2</sup>**Zoom** for a virtual meeting.

#### 4. POLICIES & RESOURCES

**4.1. General Academic Guidelines.** For an up-to-date version of the guidelines please visit the university [sharepoint](#), see the [OCU course schedule website](#) for the finals week schedule and visit the [online classroom](#).

**4.2. Course Requirements & Objectives.** The course will require students to apply and fine-tune fundamental classification and regression algorithms on authentic, real-world datasets. Emphasis will be placed on feature selection via LASSO (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator), PCA (Principal Component Analysis) for dimensionality reduction, and systematic hyper-parameter optimization (e.g., grid search). Learners will implement models from scratch and benchmark them against state-of-the-art counterparts in libraries such as scikit-learn,

**4.3. Academic Integrity.** The cheating rule for this class is simple: *don't turn in anything you did not understand*. I don't care if you use ChatGPT, Google, ask your grandma or get help from elsewhere. I encourage you to get help and exhaust your resources. Though, if you turn in something (or answer a question with something you do not understand; can not explain) and I unsuccessfully ask you to explain your work, that will result in an *automatic F in the course* and disciplinary action will be taken. If you've been asked to demonstrate your work to the professor then you'll need to do so in his office hours or make an appointment. If you've been asked to demonstrate your work and you fail to do so, you will receive a zero in the assignment. For more, read the *Academic Honesty* section of the [courses' catalogue](#).

A grade of Incomplete ("I") will only be assigned in case of documented extenuating circumstances. The "I" will be removed in accordance with university policy stated in the online undergraduate catalogue.

**4.4. Religious Accommodation.** Oklahoma City University seeks to be supportive of religious observance among the members of our diverse campus community and to be as accommodating as possible. Students should discuss with their instructor at the beginning of the semester forms of religious observance (dress, fasting, specific prayer times) that may affect their full participation in the course. Students should also compare the class schedule to their own religious calendar to determine if there will be any class days in which the student expects to be absent due to the observance of a religious holiday. *Students must notify the instructor, in writing, of the expected absence within the first two weeks of the semester.* The instructor will then work with the student to develop a plan to reschedule any exams, assignments, or course activities for that day. The instructor, at his/her own discretion, will make reasonable accommodations wherever possible. Students should recognize that there may be some course aspects that cannot be rescheduled or accommodated, and it will therefore rest upon the student to determine whether they wish to remain enrolled in the course or have their grade potentially affected.

**4.5. Mission Statement.** The Petree College of Arts and Sciences provides a supportive, student-centered learning environment. Through an interdisciplinary curriculum that promotes active learning and individualized instruction, students are encouraged to think broadly, to find their passion, to collaborate with others, and to connect with the broader community.

#### 4.6. Grook.

Put up in a place  
where it's easy to see  
the cryptic admonishment  
T.T.T.

When you feel how depressingly  
slowly you climb,  
it's well to remember that  
Things Take Time.

—Piet Hein