CS 3610, Fall 2018
Artificial Intelligence

Professor Information

Ben Schafer

schafer@cs.uni.edu (Please use this email not my @uni.edu email)

316 ITTC

phone 273-2187

Office Hours:
- MWF, 11:00-11:50 AM, 1:00-1:50 PM
  - While not necessary, to reserve an appointment you can use:
    - http://bit.ly/2iiYbAC
- Anytime my office door is open
- Send me an email and ask for a specific time.

Class Information

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

Required Text: *Artificial Intelligence in the 21st Century (2nd edition),* Lucci and Kopec

Supplemental Texts: Our library contains several very good textbooks on Artificial Intelligence. You may find these helpful for providing different examples/perspectives.

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 in class.

Homework assignments – 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. However, **any work you submit must be your own**. Discuss ideas, but write your own answers. Undocumented or unacceptable collaboration will be considered a form of academic dishonesty (see below).

Written Exams – There will be five written exams during the semester. Four will be in-class, "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 - Assignments

All written and programming assignments are given a score from 0-5 based on:

Points	Rough Description	Letter Grade Equivalent
5	Your assignment was submitted on time and meets all requirements. For programming assignments, it also produces correct results.	A
4	Your assignment was submitted on time and meets most of the requirements. For programming assignments, it produces meaningful and mostly correct results.	B
3	Your assignment was submitted on time and meets many of the requirements. For programming assignments, it produces results that show understanding of the process but are incorrect.	C
2	Your assignment was submitted on time. You show that you understood the assignment but simply didn't get it complete. For programming assignments it loads but fails to produces anything meaningful.	D
1	Your assignment was submitted on time but is largely incomplete. For programming assignments, it does not even load without syntax errors or crashes when executed.	F
0	Your program was not submitted on time without prior arrangements.	F

Many assignments will have an original due date. The assignments will be returned several days after this due date with an initial grade. I will talk about the assignment to give the class feedback on what I was looking for or how to improve the assignment when not a 5. There will then be a second deadline. If you submitted on time for the first deadline, OR you have made alternate arrangements with me to explain why you received a zero, you may resubmit your "new and improved" assignment. Your final score for the assignment will be the average of the two scores.

Grading - Exams

Each question on the exams will be graded using a 0-5 scale based on:

Points	Rough Description	Letter Grade Equivalent
5	Your answer is correct and covers all components expected of the question.	A
4	Your answer is correct but is missing one or two expected elements.	B
3	Your answer is mostly correct but contains one or two inaccurate statements.	C
2	Your answer is lacking in several important details or contains multiple inaccuracies.	D
1	Your answer shows you do not understand the question.	F
0	You fail to provide an answer.	F

While most questions will be given equal weight I reserve the right to weight some questions more heavily than others. These will be clearly marked on the exam. The exam will be given an overall score based on the weighted average of the individual questions.

Overall Grade

Your final grade in the class will be calculated by creating a weighted average of all of your scores. Written assignments have a weight of 1, programming assignments have a weight of 2, and exams have a weight of 3. Letter grades will be assigned based off of the idea that a 5 is an A, a 4 is a B and so on. Plusses and minuses will be assigned for in-between values.

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. 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:

https://www.uni.edu/policies/301

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

While you are welcome to own and use electronics such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops, the use of these, and other, electronic devices 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.

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.

Finally, all students are encouraged to use **The Learning Center @ Rod Library** (formerly The Academic Learning Center) for assistance with writing, math, science, reading and learning strategies. Meet with trained and certified tutors during walk-in hours or by appointment. For more information, visit us in person on the main floor of Rod Library, on the web at tlc.uni.edu or by calling 319-273-6023.