Syllabus for USC CSCI 561 (3 units)

Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

Spring 2015

Overview
This course provides an overview of the field of Artificial Intelligence: foundations of symbolic intelligent systems, search, logic, knowledge representation, planning, learning.

Prerequisite
Recommended preparation: good programming and algorithm analysis skills.

Lectures
5:00pm - 6:20pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in SGM 123

Discussions
7:00pm  Wednesday  GFS118
8:00pm  Wednesday  GFS118
2:00pm  Thursday  VPD116
3:00pm  Thursday  VPD116
11:00am  Friday  THH116
12:00pm  Friday  THH116
2:00pm  Friday  GFS118
3:00pm  Friday  OHE136
5:00pm  Friday  GFS116

Exams
5:00pm - 6:20pm on February 17, March 31, and April 30

Textbook
Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig, Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach,
See also http://aima.cs.berkeley.edu/ for additional resources including
Code http://aima.cs.berkeley.edu/code.html
Demos http://aima.cs.berkeley.edu/demos.html

Professors
Bill Swartout, PhD (⅔ of lectures) (swartout@ict.usc.edu)
Andrew S. Gordon, PhD (⅓ of lectures) (gordon@ict.usc.edu)
Sheila Tejada, PhD (discussion sections) (stejada@usc.edu)

Office Hours
Bill Swartout, Andrew S. Gordon:
3:30pm - 4:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays before each lecture in PHE 514 or PHE 516.
Sheila Tejada:
3-5pm Tuesday, 5-7pm Wednesday, 11am-1pm Thursday in SAL 316
TAs’ office hours: TBA

Teaching Assistants
Matthias Hernandez (mtherman@usc.edu):
Siddharth Jain (siddhajj@usc.edu):
Ramesh Radhakrishna Manuvinakurike (manuvina@usc.edu):
Setareh Nasihati Gilani (nasihati@usc.edu):

Grading
Grades for this course will be based on performance on homework and exams.

Homework 1: 5%
Homework 2: 10%
Homework 3: 10%
Exam 1: 25%
Exam 2: 25%
Exam 3: 25%

Final letter grades for this course are entirely at the discretion of the course professors. Based on previous semesters, we expect that letter grades for this course will follow this scale:

- 85% or higher: A
- 80-85%: A-
- 75-80%: B+
- 70-75%: B
- 65-70: B-
- 60-65%: C+
- 55-60%: C
- 50-55%: C-

Reading Assignments

Readings from the book contain theoretical concepts, examples and usable code that will be very helpful for all the work in this course.

Homework Assignments

There will be three homework assignments, which may consist of programming problems, open-ended essay questions, and questions representative of those that will appear on course exams. Programming problems may require the use of a specific programming language, e.g. Python.

Course Exams

There will be three in-class exams for this course, covering material presented in course lectures, discussion sections, homework assignments, and assigned readings.

Learning Management System

This course will make extensive use of the online learning management system, DEN@Viterbi. Students will submit all homework assignments via this system. This system will also be used to provide online discussion forums where students can discuss topics with their peers, the teaching assistants, and course instructors. DEN@Viterbi can be found online at: https://courses.uscden.net/d2l/login
Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me or the TA as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus (http://scampus.usc.edu/), the Student Guidebook, contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of DEN@USC, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university’s site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness (http://preparedness.usc.edu/).