DSCI 552: Machine Learning for Data Science (Fall 2023)

Units: 4
Instructor: Mohammad Reza Rajati, PhD
PHE 412
rajati@usc.edu – Include DSCI 552 in subject.
Office Hours: Right after the lecture, by appointment
Webpage: Personal Homepage at Intelligent Decision Analysis
TA(s): Will be introduced on Piazza.
Lecture 1: Monday, Wednesday, 12:00 pm –1:50 pm SGM 123 & Online
Lecture 2: Monday, Wednesday, 3:30 pm –5:20 pm MHP 101 & Online
Webpages: Piazza Class Page for discussions, announcements, and course materials
and USC DEN Class Page for exams and grades
and GitHub for code submission
– All HWs, handouts, solutions will be posted in PDF format
– Student has the responsibility to stay current with webpage material
Prerequisite: Prior courses in multivariate calculus, linear algebra, probability, and statistics.
– This course is a prerequisite to DSCI 558.
Other Requirements: Computer programming skills.
Using Python is mandatory.
Students must know Python or must be willing to learn it.
Tentative Grading: Assignments 45%
Midterm 1 20%
Midterm 2 25%
Final Project 10%
Participation on Piazza* 5%
Letter Grade Distribution:

\[
\begin{array}{c|ccc}
\text{Grade} & \text{A} & \text{A-} & \text{B+} \\
93.00 - 92.99 & 73.00 - 72.99 & 67.00 - 69.99 & 63.00 - 66.99 \\
90.00 - 92.99 & 70.00 - 72.99 & 60.00 - 62.99 & 59.99 \\
87.00 - 89.99 & 83.00 - 86.99 & 57.00 - 59.99 & 5 \leq 59.99 \\
80.00 - 82.99 & 80.00 - 82.99 & 50.00 - 52.99 & 5 \\
77.00 - 79.99 & & \text{F} & \\
\end{array}
\]
Disclaimer: Although the instructor does not expect this syllabus to drastically change, he reserves every right to change this syllabus any time in the semester.

Note on e-mail vs. Piazza: If you have a question about the material or logistics of the class and wish to ask it electronically, please post it on the piazza page (not e-mail). Often times, if one student has a question/comment, other also have a similar question/comment. Use private Piazza posts with the professor, TA, graders only for issues that are specific to your individually (e.g., a scheduling issue or grade issue). Minimize the use of email to the course staff and only use it when absolutely necessary.

Catalogue Description: Practical applications of machine learning techniques to real-world problems. Uses in data mining and recommendation systems and for building adaptive user interfaces.

Course Description: This is a foundational course with the primary application to data analytics, but is intended to be accessible both to students from technical backgrounds such as computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering, or mathematics; and to students from less technical backgrounds such as business administration, communication, accounting, various medical specializations including preventative medicine and personalized medicine, genomics, and management information systems. A basic understanding of engineering and/or technology principles is needed, as well as basic programming skills, sufficient mathematical background in probability, statistics, and linear algebra.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course a student will

- Broadly understand major algorithms used in machine learning.
- Understand supervised and unsupervised learning techniques.
- Understand regression methods.
- Understand resampling methods, including cross-validation and bootstrap.
- Understand decision trees, dimensionality reduction, regularization, clustering, and kernel methods.
- Understand hidden Markov models and graphical models.
- Understand feedforward and recurrent neural networks and deep learning.

Exam Dates:

- Midterm 1 (in-person): Friday October 20, 10:00 AM-11:50 AM. (May be changed to a a different hour on the same day)
- Midterm 2 (in-person): Friday, December 1, 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM (May be changed to a different hour on the same day)
• **Final Project Due:** Monday, December 11, 4:00 PM. **Grace period:** the project can be submitted until 11:59 PM of the same day with 30% penalty. Any change in the project after the deadline is considered late submission. One second late is late. The project is graded based on *when it was submitted, not when it was finished.* Homework late days cannot be used for the project.

**Textbooks:**

• **Required Textbook:**


• **Recommended Textbooks:**

    **Authors:** Max Kuhn and Kjell Johnson; Springer; 2016. **ISBN-13:** 978-1-4614-6848-6
    **Author:** Steven W. Knox; Wiley; 2018. **ISBN-13:** 978-1-19-43919-6
    **Authors:** Trevor Hastie, Robert Tibshirani, and Jerome Friedman; Springer; 2008. (ESL) **ISBN-13:** 978-0387848570
    **Author:** Stephen Marsland; CRC Press; 2014. **ISBN-13:** 978-1-4614-7137-0
    **Authors:** Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio, and Aaron Courville; MIT Press; 2016. (DL) **ISBN-13:** 978-0262035613
  7. *Neural Networks and Learning Machines*, 3rd Edition
    **Author:** Simon Haykin; Pearson; 2008. **ISBN-13:** 978-0131471399
    **Authors:** Charu Aggrawal; Springer; 2018. **ISBN-13:** 978-3319944623
    **Author:** Ethem Alpaydine; MIT Press; 2010. (AL) **ISBN-13:** 978-8120350786
    **Authors:** Tom M. Mitchell; McGraw-Hill Education; 1997. **ISBN-13:** 978-0070428072
Grading Policies:

- The letter grade distribution table guarantees the minimum grade each student will receive based on their final score. When appropriate, relative performance measures will be used to assign the final grade, at the discretion of the instructor.
  - Final grades are non-negotiable and are assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If you cannot accept this condition, you should not enroll in this course.

- Your lowest homework grade and half of your second lowest homework grade will be dropped from the final grade. For example, if you received 90, 85, 10, 95, 65, 80, 100, 100 your homework score will be $\frac{0.5 \times 65 + 80 + 85 + 90 + 95 + 100 + 100}{6.5} = 89.62$ instead of $\frac{10 + 65 + 80 + 85 + 90 + 95 + 100 + 100}{8} = 78.13$. This policy makes up for missing assignments because of heavy workload, sickness, etc. Remember that if you miss an assignment because of heavy workload in other courses and then miss another one because of sickness, only the second assignment’s grade will be completely dropped from your score. Be aware of this when you decide not to submit an assignment, because later you may become sick.

- Homework 0 will not be graded.

- Participation on Piazza has up to 5% extra credit, which is granted on a competitive basis at the discretion of the instructor.

Homework Policy

- Homework is assigned on an approximately biweekly basis. Homework due dates are mentioned in the course outline, so mark your calendars. A three-day grace period can be used for each homework with 10% penalty per day. Any change in homework after the deadline makes it a late submission. Absolutely no late homework will be accepted after the grace period. A late assignment results in a zero grade.

- Late Days: No late homework will be accepted after the three day grace period. One second after the deadline is considered late. However, students are allowed to use six late days for homework for any reason (including sickness, family emergencies, overwhelming workload, exams, etc) without incurring the 10% penalty. Beyond that, no individual extension will be granted to anyone for any reason whatsoever. Example: A student can submit six assignments, one day late each, without any penalty. Or three assignments, two days late each, without penalty, or two assignments three days late each. A student cannot use four late days for one assignment, and two late days for another assignment. An assignment submitted four days late will receive a zero grade, although its grade will be dropped as the lowest homework grade, according to the above grading policies.

- Use your six late days strategically and only if you absolutely need them. Always remember that later in the semester, you might become sick or have heavy workload in other courses and might need to use your late days.

- Assignments are project-style; therefore, we do not provide solutions to the assignments. This is a firm rule.

- Poor internet connection, failing to upload properly, or similar issues are NOT acceptable reasons for late submissions. If you want to make sure that you do not have such
problems, submit homework eight hours earlier than the deadline. Please do not ask the
instructor to make individual exceptions.

- Homework is graded based on when it was submitted, not when it was finished.

- Homework solutions and simulation results should be typed or scanned using scanners
or mobile scanner applications like CamScan and uploaded (photos taken by cell-phone
cameras and in formats other than pdf will NOT be accepted). Programs and simulation
results have to be uploaded on GitHub as well.

- Students are encouraged to discuss homework problems with one another, but each
student must do their own work and submit individual solutions written/ coded in
their own hand. Copying the solutions or submitting identical homework sets is written
evidence of cheating. The penalty ranges from F on the homework or exam, to an F
in the course, to recommended expulsion. One important (but not exclusive) instance
of cheating is having access to other students’ solutions. Claims of “being inspired”
by other students’ codes, or using them as “sample code” are not acceptable. Asking
questions from your peers and exchanging tips about coding are highly encouraged and
should not be confused with outright cheating.

- Posting the homework assignments and their solutions to online forums or sharing them
with other students is strictly prohibited and infringes the copyright of the instructor.
Instances will be reported to USC officials as academic dishonesty for disciplinary action.

• Exam Policy

  - Make-up Exams: No make-up exams will be given. If you cannot make the above
dates due to a class schedule conflict or personal matter, you must drop the class. In
the case of a required business trip or a medical emergency, a signed letter from your
manager or physician has to be submitted. This letter must include the contact of your
physician or manager.

  - An excused absence supported by documents in the first midterm can be made up by
using the second midterm’s grade in lieu of the first midterm. An excused absence in
the second midterm results in an IN (incomplete) grade.

  - Exams will be closed book and notes. Calculators are allowed but computers and cell-
phones or using any devices that have internet capability are not allowed, except for
writing the solutions or being proctored are not allowed. One letter size cheat sheet
(back and front) is allowed for Midterm 1. Two letter size cheat sheets (back and front)
are allowed for Midterm 2.

  - All exams are cumulative, with an emphasis on material presented since the last exam.

  - For several reasons, including unauthorized circulation of previous exams, we DO NOT
provide exam solutions. This is a firm rule.

  - For several reasons, including the difficult logistics of dealing with a large class, we
may not be able to hold a regrading session for the exams. Please make sure that you
understand this rule when you take this course.

• Project

  - The final project is more like a slightly extended Homework that will be assigned after
Midterm 2 as the final summative experience.
– The project topic and steps will be provided to students, similar to homework assignments.
– Projects must be finished *individually*.
– A short grace period of a few hours after the project deadline will be given to students for 30% penalty. Late submissions will be graded zero. One second late is late.
– Project is graded based on *when it was submitted, not when it was finished*.
– Homework late days *cannot* be used for project in any circumstances.

• **Attendance:**

  – Students are required to attend all the lectures and discussion sessions and actively participate in class discussions. Use of cellphones and laptops is prohibited in the classroom. If you need your electronic devices to take notes, you should discuss with the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

**Important Notes:**

• Textbooks are secondary to the lecture notes and homework assignments.
• Handouts and course material will be distributed.
• Please use your USC email to register on Piazza and to contact the instructor and TAs.
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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 21st</td>
<td>23rd</td>
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| **Introduction to Statistical Learning**  
(ISLR Chs.1,2, ESL Chs.1,2)  
Motivation: Big Data  
Supervised vs. Unsupervised Learning | **Introduction to Statistical Learning**  
(ISLR Chs.1,2, ESL Chs.1,2)  
Regression, Classification  
The Regression Function  
Nearest Neighbors |
| 28th | 30th |
| **Introduction to Statistical Learning**  
(ISLR Chs.1,2, ESL Chs.1,2)  
Model Assessment  
The Bias-Variance Trade-off  
No Free Lunch Theorem | **Linear Regression**  
(ISLR Ch.3, ESL Ch. 3)  
Estimating Coefficients  
Estimating the Accuracy of Coefficients |
| Sep 4th  
Labor Day | 6th |
| 11th | 13th |
| **Linear Regression**  
(ISLR Ch.3, ESL Ch. 3)  
Stepwise Variable Selection  
Qualitative Variables | **Classification**  
(ISLR Ch. 4, ESL Ch. 4)  
Multi-class and Multi-label Classification  
Logistic Regression  
Class Imbalance  
Hypothesis Testing and Variable Selection |
| 18th | 20th |
| **Classification**  
(ISLR Ch. 4, ESL Ch. 4)  
Subsampling and Upsampling  
SMOTE  
Multinomial Regression  
Bayesian Linear Discriminant Analysis | **Classification**  
(ISLR Ch. 4, ESL Ch. 4)  
Measures for Evaluating Classifiers  
Quadratic Discriminant Analysis*  
Comparison with K-Nearest Neighbors  
The Naïve Bayes’ Classifier  
Text Classification  
Feature Creation for Text Data  
Handling Missing Data |
| 25th | 27th |
| **Resampling Methods**  
(ISLR Ch. 5, ESL Ch. 7)  
Model Assessment  
Validation Set Approach  
Cross-Validation  
The Bias-Variance Trade-off for Cross-Validation  
The Bootstrap  
Bootstrap Confidence Intervals | **Linear Model Selection and Regularization**  
(ISLR Ch.6, ESL Ch. 3)  
Subset Selection  
AIC, BIC, and Adjusted $R^2$  
Shrinkage Methods  
Ridge Regression |
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<th>Oct 2nd</th>
<th>12th</th>
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<td><strong>Linear Model Selection and Regularization</strong> (ISLR Ch. 6, ESL Ch. 3)</td>
<td>4th <strong>Tree-based Methods</strong> (ISLR Ch. 8, ESL Chs. 9, 10)</td>
<td><strong>Tree-based Methods</strong> (ISLR Ch. 8, ESL Chs. 9, 10, 16)</td>
<td>11th <strong>Support Vector Machines</strong> (ISLR Ch. 9, ESL Ch. 12)</td>
<td>15th <strong>Support Vector Machines</strong> (ISLR Ch. 9, ESL Ch. 12)</td>
<td>16th <strong>Support Vector Machines</strong> (ISLR Ch. 9, ESL Ch. 12)</td>
<td>18th <strong>Unsupervised Learning</strong> (ISLR Ch. 12, ESL Ch. 14)</td>
<td>17th <strong>Unsupervised Learning</strong> (ISLR Ch. 12, ESL Ch. 14)</td>
<td>19th <strong>Unsupervised Learning</strong> (ISLR Ch. 12, ESL Ch. 14)</td>
<td>20th <strong>Active and Semi-Supervised Learning</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nov 1st</strong> <strong>Neural Networks and Deep Learning</strong> (ISLR Ch. 10, ESL Ch. 11, DL Ch. 6)</td>
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<td>Elastic Net</td>
<td>Cost Complexity Pruning</td>
<td>Support Vector Machines</td>
<td>Association Rules*</td>
<td>Self-Training</td>
<td>Feedforward Neural Networks</td>
<td>Support Vector Classifiers</td>
<td>Association Rules*</td>
<td>Neural Networks and Deep Learning</td>
<td>Co-Training</td>
<td>Backpropagation and Gradient Descent</td>
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<td>Dimension Reduction Methods*</td>
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<td>Refinements</td>
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<td>Active vs. Passive Learning</td>
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| **Neural Networks and Deep Learning** *(DL Chs. 6, 7)*  
**Autoencoders and Deep Feedforward Neural Networks**  
**Regularization**  
**Early Stopping and Dropout**  
**Adversarial Training*** | 8th  
**Neural Networks and Deep Learning** *(ISLR Ch. 12, DL Chs. 9, 10)*  
**Convolutional Neural Networks**  
**Sequence Modeling**  
**Recurrent Neural Networks** |
| 13th   | 23        |
| **Neural Networks and Deep Learning** *(ISLR Ch. 12, DL Ch. 10)*  
**Sequence-to-Sequence Modeling***  
**Long Short Term Memory (LSTM) Neural Networks** | 15th  
**Hidden Markov Models** *(AL Ch. 15)*  
**Principles**  
**The Viterbi Algorithm** |
| 20th   | 24        |
| **Reinforcement Learning***  
**Definitions**  
**Task-Reward-Policy Formulation**  
**Total Discounted Future Reward**  
**Optimal Policy**  
**Value Function**  
**Q-Function**  
**The Bellman Equation**  
**Q-Learning**  
**Exploration- Exploitation**  
**Temporal Difference Learning**  
**Extensions to Stochastic Environments and Rewards**  
**Deep Reinforcement Learning** | 22nd  
**Thanksgiving Break** |
| 27th   | 25        |
| **Fuzzy Systems***  
**Fuzzy Sets**  
**Set Operations**  
**T-norms, T-conorms, and Fuzzy complements**  
**Cylindrical Extensions and Fuzzy Relations**  
**Fuzzy If-Then Rules as Association Rules** | 29th  
**Fuzzy Systems***  
**Inference from Fuzzy Rules**  
**Fuzzification and Defuzzification**  
**Learning Fuzzy Rules from Examples**  
**The Wang-Mendel Algorithm**  
**Fuzzy C-Means Clustering** |

**Notes:**

- Items marked by * will be covered only if time permits.
## Homework Due Dates & Exams

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>8th</td>
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<td>Homework 1 Due</td>
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<td>Oct 6th</td>
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<td>[Midterm 1]</td>
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<td>27th</td>
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<td>Nov 3rd</td>
<td>Homework 6 Due</td>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>Homework 7 Due (Moved to Monday Nov. 13)</td>
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<td>24th</td>
<td>Homework 8 Due (Moved to Monday Nov. 28)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1st</td>
<td>[Midterm 2]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on Research and Scholarship Misconduct.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086 eotix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS)* - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

*USC Campus Support and Intervention* - (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency* - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety* - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

*Office of the Ombuds* - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

*Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice* - (323) 442-3340 or otp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.