

CMSC 671

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Course Overview

Fall 2012

Today' s class

- Course overview
- Introduction
 - Brief history of AI
 - What *is* AI? (and why is it so interesting?)
 - What' s the state of AI now?

Web Resources

- Class web page

<http://cs.umbc.edu/courses/graduate/671/fall12/>

- Piazza discussion site

<https://piazza.com/class#fall2012/cmssc671>

- Blackboard

<http://blackboard.umbc.edu/>

Homework and grading policies

- Eight to ten homework assignments (mix of written and programming)
- One-time extensions of up to a week will generally be granted ***if requested in advance***
- Last-minute requests for extensions will be denied
- Late policy: being refined, see web next week
- ***NOTE ON READING: Please do the reading before each class!***

Programming

- We encourage you to do the assignments in Python
 - We'll use Python in the notes and examples
 - This is a good chance for you to learn Python
- In Some cases, you may be able to use Java
- Why not Lisp or Prolog?
- Some assignments may require using other systems
 - E.g., C5 decision tree learning system, Weka Machine learning environment, Prolog, Jess production rule system, etc.

Exams

- Midterm exam
 - In class in mid October
 - About 15% of grade
- Final exam
 - At regularly scheduled time
 - About 25% of grade
 - Comprehensive, but with an emphasis on the last half of the material (e.g., 30/70 split)

Academic integrity

- Instructor's responsibilities:
 - Be respectful
 - Be fair
 - Be available
 - Tell the students what they need to know and how they will be graded
- Students' responsibilities:
 - Be respectful
 - Do not cheat, plagiarize, or lie, or help anyone else to do so
 - Do not interfere with other students' academic activities
- Consequences include (but are not limited to) a reduced or failing grade on the assignment, or in the class

Instructor availability

- Professor Finin
 - Official office hours: by arrangement
 - Drop in whenever my door is open
 - Direct general questions (i.e., those that other students may also be wondering about and that Google can't answer) to Piazza first
 - We will try to respond to postings on the discussion list or private email messages within 24 hours
- Teaching assistant, Ranendar Lal, office hours tbd