George Mason University  
The Volgenau School of Engineering  
Department of Computer Science  
CS 480 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Meeting time: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm  
Meeting location: Art and Design Building 2026

Instructor: Dr. Gheorghe Tecuci, Professor of Computer Science  
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Course Description
Artificial Intelligence is the Science and Engineering domain which is concerned with the theory and practice of developing systems that exhibit the characteristics we associate with intelligence in human behavior, such as reasoning, planning and problem solving, learning and adaptation, natural language processing, and perception. This course presents the basic principles and the major methods of Artificial Intelligence, preparing the students to build complex systems incorporating capabilities for intelligent processing of information. Covered topics include: heuristic search and game playing, knowledge representation, logic and probabilistic reasoning, machine learning, knowledge engineering and cognitive assistants, Common LISP, Prolog, and SPARQL. The students will also learn about the Disciple agent development environment created in the Learning Agents Center of George Mason University, as well as other artificial intelligence tools, such as the Weka machine learning workbench, and the SPARQL endpoints for the semantic web. Students will have accounts on Blackboard and can download the lecture notes by going to courses.gmu.edu and logging in using their Mason ID and passwords.

Course Topics
- Overview of Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Agents
- Problem Solving through Search
- Knowledge Representation and Reasoning in Logic
- Common LISP
- Ontologies and the Semantic Web
- Probabilistic Reasoning and Learning
- Machine Learning
- Knowledge Engineering and Cognitive Assistants
Outcomes

- Knowledge of and ability to apply uninformed and heuristic search methods;
- Knowledge of and ability to apply knowledge representation and reasoning methods based on first-order logic;
- Knowledge of and ability to apply basic probabilistic reasoning methods;
- Knowledge of and ability to apply basic machine learning methods;
- Ability to implement basic AI methods in Lisp, Prolog or a knowledge-based systems development environment;
- Ability to identify and apply basic AI methods to a given problem.

Grading Policy
There will be several homework assignments, two mid-term exams and a final exam. The course grade will be determined as follows:

- Assignments: 33.33%
- Mid-term exam: 33.33%
- Final exam: 33.33%

Exam Dates

- Mid-term exams: 3/20/2018 and 3/22/2018, starting at 3:00pm
- Final exam: 5/10/2018, starting at 1:30pm

Assignments Deadline Policy
Assignments are due (on paper) before the beginning of the class. No late assignments will be accepted because their solution will be discussed in class the day they are due.

Honor Code Policy
Mason is an Honor Code university. You are expected to abide by the University's honor code (http://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/), as well as the CS department Honor Code (http://cs.gmu.edu/resources/honor-code/). Any collaboration between students on assignments or exams is unacceptable. We reserve the right to use MOSS (http://theory.stanford.edu/~aiken/moss/) to detect plagiarism in the programming assignments.

Required Reading

- Tecuci G., Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence, 2018 (available on Blackboard)

Recommended Readings

Other Useful Readings


Email Communication

• Please use your Mason email and include CS480 in the subject of any message you are emailing to Dr. Tecuci.

• Please try to limit the size of the files you are emailing.

Mason Email Accounts

Students must activate their Mason email accounts to receive important University information, including messages related to this class.

Office of Disability Services

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see Dr. Tecuci and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS ([http://ds.gmu.edu/](http://ds.gmu.edu/)).
Other Useful Campus Resources

- Writing Center: A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; http://writingcenter.gmu.edu
- University Libraries “Ask a Librarian” http://library.gmu.edu/ask
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): (703) 993-2380; https://caps.gmu.edu/

University Policies

The University Catalog, http://catalog.gmu.edu, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs. You may also review the University Policy web site, http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/