CS 440 / ECE 448  Spring 2017
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

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            3320SC

TA’s:
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See website (soon) for Syllabus, TA emails and office hours
• Official announcements will be either in class or on the web site (or both)

• Recommended Text:
  Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach (good but expensive)
  (Editions: 3\textsuperscript{rd} Blue or 2\textsuperscript{nd} Green) Russell & Norvig, Prentice Hall

• Lectures are a crucial component
  Text or Web & other out-of-class reading/research is essential
  Wikipedia is often excellent
  Many AI & machine learning resources
  Know when you don’t know
  Attend office hours, come to see me

• The course will use
  – Web site courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs440/ (soon)
  – Compass 2g compass2g.illinois.edu/
  – iClickers, by next Tuesday, must have & register your own

• Maybe Piazza?
Grading

- Graduates & Undergraduates graded on a separate curve
- 30% : Homework (written & MPs)
- 5% Clicker quizzes
- 30% Midterm
  - March 1, 6:30PM
- 35% Final
  - Assigned time
  - Focus primarily on material after midterm

- Graduates who want 4th Unit credit:
  - Significant programming project
  - Accompanying paper
  - Due last class, May 2
  - 25% of your grade

Check for conflicts now.
Let me know within two weeks of any problems.
The Student Code spells out violations. This includes allowing others to cheat.

The use of any iClicker other than your own is cheating by both the owner and user.

On the first occurrence, you will receive a zero for the assignment or exam and your course grade will be reduced by one full letter grade. A second occurrence will result in course failure.

Note it follows that a single cheating episode on an exam will result in course failure.
Homework

Assignments will be both written and programming and must be submitted via Compass 2g. No handwritten answers unless specifically allowed.

No credit for assignments submitted later than 2 days.

Homework regrade requests must be made within one week after the graded homework is returned (exam regrade requests must be made immediately).
Homework

We are trying a new pedagogical theory this semester:

You may collaborate on homework if it improves your learning.

You may use whatever outside sources that help you to learn.

BUT

Plagiarism is cheating.

Plagiarism is misrepresenting another’s contribution as your own.
Homework

“Plagiarism is misrepresenting another’s contribution as your own.”

SO...You may use any outside sources, BUT:

All ideas that are not your own must be cited at the end of your homework in a separate section clearly labeled “CITATIONS”

You may use text or code verbatim. But this must be clearly stated in your answer be cited appropriately:

...“The following code is taken from [2]: ...”

CITATIONS

Homework

“Plagiarism is misrepresenting another’s contribution as your own.”

SO...You may work in collaborative groups, BUT:

If you work in a group, hand in a **single assignment** with all names and NetIDs (without a NetID you will receive no credit).

Everyone in the group receives the same homework score.

But if you are on more than one, you will receive the lowest of the scores and an additional penalty.
Homework

Motivation for the experimental Pedagogical Theory

Learning is paramount.
Students can become stuck on a problem.
Students procrastinate.
Students often do not take advantage of TA office hours or wait too long to make use of them.

You know the best way to learn for YOU.
We do not want our homework policies to get in the way.

This policy frees up TA resources that can be spent far more profitably.
Homework

Motivation for the experimental Pedagogical Theory

Homework is our way of communicating what is important in this course.

This semester, most written homework questions are taken from past exams, (sometimes changed, often expanded). Homeworks serve as practice questions for the exams.

You are responsible for understanding the concepts behind the homework to the level required.

We assume your facility with the concepts will be as if you successfully did all the work alone.

In groups, it is each members responsibility to master and help others master all relevant concepts.
Homework
Fallacies about the experimental Pedagogical Theory

Understanding a specific solution to a specific problem is not the same as understanding the underlying concepts. Wrestling with homework, both written and programming, is where MOST of your learning happens; do not squander the opportunity to fight your own way out of confusion.

But this hurts good students; it serves to raise the grade of poor and lazy students. It may raise their homework portion (30%) but combining 30% A with 70% F is still failure of the course.
Homework
Specifics of the experimental Pedagogical Theory

Homework assignments are generally given at the beginning of class topic and due on the Tuesday following the topic treatment (at 11:59PM).

On Mondays before Tuesday due dates, TA’s will hold special QA sessions where anything may be asked (including “What is the answer?”) answers may involve students...

Each written homework is graded on a five point scale. MP components, when present, are worth an additional five points.

A 20% penalty of the total points is assessed until two days later, when no credit will be given.

Up to 20% Extra Credit is given if your final handin is two days early (11:59PM the preceding Sunday).
Best Practices

Tentative slides will generally be available prior to the topic treatment in class, with official final versions later.

Don’t wait. Read over homework assignments immediately. Start the homework parts as soon as you can do them.

Let your outside reading be guided by the syllabus, by class discussion, and by the homework.

Try different approaches to the homework to see what works best for you.

Start 4th unit projects by mid-semester; topic approval is strongly recommended but not required.