

CSC384H—Fall Term 2015

Course Information Sheet

Sept 11th, 2015

Instructor: Fahiem Bacchus

Class Times:

Lecture L0101 TR 1:10–2:00pm, Room MP 102.

Tutorial R 2:10-3:00pm, Room MP 103.

Typically tutorials will be held on Thursdays, but we might occasionally cover lecture material during that time. **You are responsible for material covered during all of these meetings.**

Contact information:

Email: fbacchus@cs.toronto.edu

Office: D.L. Pratt, Room 398B

You need to put “CSC384” in the subject line of your email

Office Hours:

Wednesdays 3:30pm to 4:30pm, Thursdays 11am to 12 noon.

Or by appointment.

E-mail Response Policy: I only use e-mail for limited communications or when other forms of communication are not available. Please do not be surprised if I do not respond to your email. In particular, *I will not respond by e-mail to any requests to clarify lecture material or assignment questions.* For these purposes I ask that you attend my office hour, speak to me after or before class, or if you have an unavoidable scheduling conflict, arrange a mutually acceptable alternate meeting time. Face-to-face discussion of these issues is much more effective and much less prone to mis-interpretation. I will read your e-mail if it is short and to the point. If I choose not to reply by e-mail I might still respond by posting a clarification to the course website (e.g., if the question is about one of the assignments), or by addressing the issue at the next lecture. Hence, please ensure that you regularly check the course website and attend lectures. *I will respond to e-mail about administrative requests, like scheduling an appointment.*

Course Web Site: www.cs.toronto.edu/~fbacchus/csc384/

Recommended Text Book:

1. *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach, 3rd Ed. (2009), Russell & Norvig*. This is the most popular textbook on Artificial Intelligence, and it provides a good introduction to a wide range of topics. I will indicate the sections that are most related to the lecture material as we proceed in the course. You do not have to purchase the book, but it can be useful to do so. There is also a good website for the book that has various other educational resources.
<http://aima.cs.berkeley.edu/>
2. Another recent text book that is quite good and might be useful is *Artificial Intelligence Foundations of Computational Agents (2010), Poole & Macworth*. The website for this book is
<http://artint.info/>
Note: the text is available on-line.
3. Finally, a number of on-line introduction to AI course have been developed. For example, search for the introduction to Artificial Intelligence course at
<https://www.udacity.com/courses/>

In general, however, you should be able to understand the material presented in the course by attending the lectures, reviewing the course slides, doing the assignments, and asking me questions during my office hours or during lectures.

Outline:

- Search: Heuristic Search, Game-Tree Search, Backtracking Search.
- Logical Representations and Reasoning: First-Order Logic, Unification and Resolution.
- Automated Planning.
- Probabilistic representations and reasoning: Bayes Nets, Variable Elimination.

Prerequisites: Some background in probabilities or statistics (STA247H/STA255H/STA257H). Some knowledge of functional programming and logic programming is useful (CSC324H). However, the programming assignments will now be done in Python. There is also a CGPA requirement of 3.0.

Evaluation:

45%: 3 Assignments worth 15% each. These assignments will involve some programming as well as some written questions.

15%: Midterm Exam worth 15%.

40%: Final Exam worth 40%. The exam will cover all of the course material. **You must obtain a mark of at least 40% on the final exam to pass the course.**

Assignment Late Policy: No late assignments will be accepted unless there is a legitimate and documented medical excuse. Please note that there is a standard medical excuse form that needs to be filled in by a doctor.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism—or simply, cheating—is taken to be the handing in of work not substantially the student’s own. It is usually done without reference, but is unacceptable even in the guise of acknowledged copying. It is reprehensible, and the penalty will be severe.

It is not cheating, however, to discuss ideas and approaches to a problem, nor is it cheating to seek or accept help with a program or with writing a paper. Indeed, a moderate form of collaboration is encouraged as a useful part of any educational process. Nevertheless, good judgement must be used, and students are expected to present the results of their own thinking and writing. Never copy another student’s work—it is plagiarism to do so, even if the other student “explains it to you first.” Never give your written work to others. Sharing work with others for the purposes of plagiarism is also a violation. Do not work together to form a collective solution, from which the members of the group copy out the final solution. Rather, walk away and recreate your own solution later. If you are really stuck on a problem, don’t panic...just come and talk to the instructor or one of the TAs. For details on the meaning of plagiarism and how it is dealt with at this university, see: <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~fpitt/documents/plagiarism.html>

Important Dates (Other important dates will be posted on the web site as the term progresses):

Tuesday 15th Sept: Classes Start.

Thursday 29th Oct: Midterm Exam. Note that 1/2 of the class will write at 1:00pm and the other 1/2 at 2:00pm.