

CSI 460 – Artificial Intelligence – Spring 2009

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Office Hours: MW 11:30-12:30, T 11:00-12:00
Class meetings: TR 1:00pm-2:15 - TOLL S111
Text: Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach,
by Stuart Russel and Peter Norvig
Web: <http://ramsey.washcoll.edu/>

Overview: The purpose of this course is to gain an understanding of the fundamentals of artificial intelligence. This broad field delves into many areas of computer science and problem solving. This course is designed to explore the foundations of state space searches as it pertains to intelligence.

Topics: Problem solving through the use of state-space search is explored. This includes methods involving heuristics, constraints and adversaries. Other topics include uncertain knowledge, probabilistic reasoning and learning.

Advising: AI requires a large bit of reasoning with trees, graphs and complex data structures used for the state-space and searching. A strong core foundation in CSI 202 (data structures) is necessary to do well in this course. Knowledge in algorithms is also highly recommended as a prerequisite or co-requisite for this course. This course directly builds on the core algorithm and data structure concepts.

Grading: Your grade consists of three exams, and assignments. You must pass each exam and have a passing average on assignments to pass the course. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade. Coursework/homework comprises the last 25% of your final grade. Attendance can have an affect on your final grade (see below).

Assignments and Programming: Assignments largely consist of programs completed outside of class, but may include other assigned tasks inside and outside of class. For example, quizzes, oral presentations during class and specific written assignments outside of class. For programming assignments, credit is given only for programs which compile without errors, execute properly, and are not late. Late homework will receive a grade of 0, but will be

collected for mark-up. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Programming assignments are time stamped by the server we will be using, so be sure not to alter your program after the hand-in time.

Exams: Tentatively, exams will be held on R 2/19, R 3/26 and T 4/21. There will be no 'final exam' during final exam week. An absence on the day of an exam will result in a grade of a 0. Except in cases of extreme emergency, exams must be taken on the day the exam is administered. Before a make-up test is scheduled, documentation of the extreme emergency must be given. Make-up exams for tests missed due to an extreme emergency will be arranged for a time that is mutually convenient for the student and Dr. Ramsey.

Attendance: You may miss three class meetings before a missed lecture begins to impact your final grade. Each missed class meeting after the third (for any reason) results in the reduction of your final grade by a letter grade (or 10%). It is your responsibility to obtain assigned homework, announcements and class notes from your fellow students. Talk to classmates for class notes. It is important that you attend every class, as there is certainly a correlation between grades and attendance. As a matter of courtesy, students are expected to inform Dr. Ramsey of the reason for any absence.

Academic Honesty: You are always subject to the Honor Code of Washington College. You may discuss concepts with others, but work is to be done on your own (unless otherwise designated). If you are unsure if something is considered *cheating*, simply ask. As always, if you have questions, feel free to email or stop by my office. SHARING CODE OR GIVING CODE IN ANY WAY IS CHEATING!

Accommodations: If you have a special accommodation/need that has been reported to the college, please let me know discretely during the first week, so that I can work to meet your accommodation.

Suggestions: To become a good programmer and problem solver, you must work on many problems. If you need help, please see me. The website will also be your source for topics covered, new assignments, and other resources, so be sure to utilize that aid.