Last update: January 28, 2010

CMSC 421, Artificial Intelligence

Syllabus

Basic Info

- Location & time: CSI 1122, Tuesday/Thursday 3:30am-4:45pm

- Instructor: Dana S. Nau
- Email: `nau&cs.umd.edu` (change & to @)
- Web page: `http://www.cs.umd.edu/~nau`
- Office & phone: Room 3241 AVW, 301-405-2684
- Office hours: after class till about 5:30pm; other times by appointment

- TA: Ke Zhai
- Email: `zhaike&cs.umd.edu` (change & to @)
- Office hours: Tuesday 10:30am–12:00, and Friday 1:30–3:00pm
- Where: room 1112 AVW

Web pages

Home page for the course:

`http://www.cs.umd.edu/~nau/cmsc421`

That's where I'll post the lecture schedule, slides, etc.

Discussion forum

Web site:

`https://forum.cs.umd.edu/forumdisplay.php?f=179`

RSS feed:

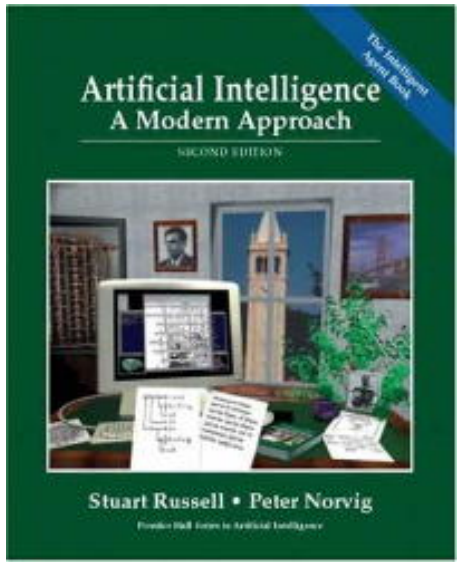
`https://forum.cs.umd.edu/external.php?type=rss2&forumids=179`

Please post questions and comments there

Textbooks

Required:

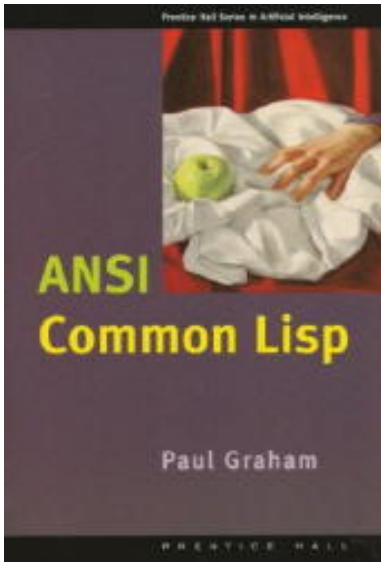
Russell & Norvig, *Artificial Intelligence, A Modern Approach* (2nd edition)



Not the new 3rd edition. It was published after the deadline for ordering textbooks.

Recommended but not required:

Paul Graham, *ANSI Common Lisp*



Topics to be covered:

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- ♢ intelligent agents (AMAI chapter 2)
- ♢ search and game-playing (AMAI chapters 36)
- ♢ logical systems (AMAI chapters 79)
- ♢ planning systems (AMAI chapters 1112)
- ♢ reasoning about uncertainty (AMAI chapters 1314)
- ♢ learning (AMAI chapter 18 & 20)
- ♢ language (AMAI chapter 22)
- ♢ perception (AMAI chapter 24)

- ♢ Lisp: 2 or 3 programming projects

Workload

Homework assignments: about six, about 5 problems each

- ♢ You'll usually have one week to do them
- ♢ Submit them **in class** (not my office, mail box, or email)

- ♢ For full credit, submit them on the due date
- ♢ For a 10% penalty, submit them at the next class meeting
- ♢ No credit after that

- ♢ Graded by the TA. Contact him if you want something regraded

Programming projects: probably three

- ♢ Language: Common Lisp
- ♢ Platform: Allegro Common Lisp on the OIT Unix cluster
  Get a Glue account if you don't already have one:
  `http://www.oit.umd.edu/new`

Exams

- **Open book, open notes** (and closed neighbor)
- The last class meeting before each exam will be a review
- **Midterm:** Thursday March 11 (our last class before spring break)
  If that date is going to cause any problems, I need to know **now**
- **Final exam:** Wednesday, May 19, 10:30-12:30, as specified by the university at `http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/exam201001.html`
- It will be cumulative

- If you miss an exam and you have both a valid reason (e.g., a medical emergency) and convincing evidence, I'll give you credit for the missed exam based on your performance on the other exam
- Exams will be graded by both the TA and me
  Submit all regrade requests to me in writing

Grading

- Numeric score at end of semester:
  exams + homeworks/5 + projects/2
- Total possible is **approximately**
  100 + 140 + (6*50)/5 + (3*100)/2 = 450
- I'll assign letter grades on a curve, based on your total numeric score

To give you an idea how well you're doing, I can give you a tentative letter grade after the midterm exam. But I won't use it in computing your final letter grade for the semester.

Academic integrity: I'll expect you to follow the student honor pledge:

`http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html#honor_pledge`

My teaching style

- Lecture slides; will work out details on the board
  - To give you an idea of what's coming, I've already posted some older versions of my slides.
  - They're out-of-date, and I'll update them as I go along.
  - I'll post the updated slides on the web after each class
- Please ask me questions during my lecture
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- **Any questions?**