

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Fall 2006

CS 490B/580A

TTh 3:30–4:45 PM

PM 251

Instructor: Dr. Reva Freedman

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Phone: (815) 753–6944

Office hours: I am generally available after class TTh. If you send email, I will be happy to meet with you TTh before class or any time MWF.

Course web site: <http://www.cs.niu.edu/~freedman/courses/csai/>

Communication with the professor: I am always happy to talk to students in person. I try to respond to email by the next business day, but there are occasional exceptions. Make sure you are on my email list. I occasionally, but not frequently, check the voice mail on my office phone.

Special needs: If you have individual circumstances such as a disability, religious holiday, etc., please feel free to contact me at any time for suitable accommodations. Please note that circumstances that apply to all students, such as hardware problems, software problems, network problems, car problems, lots of work to do, etc. are generally *not* special circumstances.

Class attendance and learning contract: Due to the nature of the class, class attendance is *required*. By university rule, this includes the date of the final exam (see next paragraph). You are responsible for learning the material presented, including taking the initiative to ask questions when necessary.

Assignments: There will be approximately 6–8 assignments, including pencil-and-paper, small programs, and parts of a larger programming project. Some will involve short class reports on your work. There may be an occasional pencil-and-paper in-class assignment. You will have approximately a week for each assignment. Rules for submitting homework will be provided.

Projects, exams, and research papers: There will be a midterm project and a final project. There will be no full-period exams or research papers. The university requires a final exam or final class project meeting, at which attendance is required. By university requirement, it will be held Tuesday, December 12, 4–5:50 PM. To ensure attendance, there may be an in-class assignment on that day.

Penalty for late assignments: All assignments are required to get a grade in the class. There is a one letter grade penalty per business day late (i.e., weekend days are free).

Academic honesty: You are expected to do your own work on assignments and projects. Cheating includes both copying work from other students or letting other students copy your work. Since this is a project-based class, consulting books, the web, and other resources is permitted and in fact encouraged. Likewise, if you have problems with course concepts or the course software, you are encouraged to consult with your friends, colleagues, and the instructor. However, you are expected to do your own work.

All cheating will result in the filing of an academic misconduct form and will affect your course grade, with the possibility of failing the course. Note that a second academic misconduct offense may result in your expulsion from the university.

Grading: Letter grades will be given for each assignment. Your course grade will be based on the weighted average of your assignment and project grades. If you miss more than an occasional class, it may affect your grade.