

# COSC 370 - Artificial Intelligence

Spring 2011

Syllabus

Training the future scientists who will make Skynet a reality.

## Just the Facts

**Course Number:** COSC 370

**Title:** Artificial Intelligence

**Semester:** Spring 2011

**Meeting Time:** MWF 10:40 - 11:50 a.m.

**Locale:** Schaefer 165

**Instructor:** Alan Jamieson

**Office:** Schaefer 154

**Office Hours:** MW, 3 - 4 p.m, TR 1-2 p.m.

**Email:** acjamieson@smcm.edu

**AIM:** DrRipark

**Online Office Hours:** Most evenings and weekends

**Textbook:** *Russell and Norvig, Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach, 3e*

**Website:** <http://faculty.smcm.edu/acjamieson/s11/cosc370.html>

**Catalog Description:** This course surveys artificial intelligence. Topics include symbolic processing; expert systems; machine learning; and neural networks, natural language processing, pattern matching, genetic algorithms and fuzzy logic. Not open to students who have received credit for COSC 260. Formerly COSC 260. Prerequisite: COSC 201 or permission of the instructor.

**Overview:** In this course you will learn the basics behind a number of artificial intelligence subjects with a focus on the higher-level theory and the direct application of those fundamentals to project work. You will be exposed to the major, high impact problems in AI and you should walk away from the course with a working knowledge of the basics behind intelligent systems and agents.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to give you an overview to the theoretical and practical sides of artificial intelligence. The subfield of AI is very deep and while we cannot get to everything in a semester, we will touch on a number of topics including neural networks, game playing and robotics with a focus on the fundamentals of artificial intelligence and a dash of practicality.

### Grade Distribution:

Exams (2) - 10% each  
Quizzes and Homework - 10%  
Projects (5) - 10% each  
Final - 20%

The class will be run fairly informally. While there will be some amount of a traditional lecture involved with each class period, I expect there will be a less traditional discussion in each class period involving questions and concepts being batted back and forth amongst you, your peers and myself. Please participate in these discussions, I can almost guarantee that you'll get more out of the class in general if you do.

**Final Information:** The final will be held Thursday, May 5th from 2 - 4:15 pm in Schaefer 165. Except in emergency situations, you will be required to take the final exam at this time (unless exempt).

**Assignments:** During this class you will You will be working in groups of 2 or 3 for these projects.

**Blackboard Use:** I will be utilizing Blackboard primarily for your grades. Please check there often as I will be updating grades as I get graded material evaluated. Assignment sheets, example questions and other class materials will be posted to the website instead.

## Policies

Cell Phones: Please, turn off or turn to silent any cell phones prior to getting to class. If they go off in class they are distraction not only to myself, but to everyone else in the class as well. Habitual offenders will be excused from the class with a 0 for any quizzes that day.

Computer Use: Computer use in this lab is for academic use only. If you bring a laptop with you to this class I expect you to be only using it for purposes related to this class. The same goes for the computers in this lab.

Attendance and Tardiness: Attendance is highly recommended. Missing a class not only causes you to miss the information disseminated in that lecture, but can cause you to miss important information in regards to exams and assignments and the potential of receiving a 0 for a quiz that day. I start class promptly on the hour and expect the students to be in class at that time. If you have circumstances that can prevent you from being in class on time, please let me know as soon as possible. Habitual offenders will be excused from the class with a 0 for any quizzes that day.

Exams and Quizzes: Exams are scheduled well ahead of time. The current schedule shows what days I believe I will be issuing an exam. Any changes to this schedule will be noted and explained in class, well ahead (approx. 1 week) of the exam affected. Exams will not be rescheduled and I will not be offering make-up exams except under extraordinary and documented circumstances. Every class has the potential of having a quiz to reinforce the ideas from the lecture the previous class. These will not be announced ahead of time. They will be 1-3 question quizzes that can be easily done in 15 minutes either at the start or the end of the class period.

Assignments: Assignments and other outside of class work should be done on an individual basis unless otherwise specified in the description of the assignment. Assignments and other outside of class work will not be taken late except under extraordinary and documented circumstances.

Extra Credit: I may or may not be offering any extra credit opportunities in this class.

Final Exam Exemptions: If you have an A in the course going into the final exam you will be exempted from the final. As a note, you are still required to attend the final as per college policy.

Communication: The simplest way to get in touch with me is by coming by my office during my office hours or contacting me via email. The easiest way to get in touch with me "after hours" is to send me an email. I habitually check my St. Mary's email account all hours of the day. If you come by my office and the door is open, feel free to stop in to chat. The open door indicates that I'm not working on anything that has to keep my undivided attention at that time so do not feel that you are interrupting me or anything like that. I do make appointments if you have a certain time that you'd like to meet with me. If it fits in my schedule (meaning I'm not teaching class during that time) I will be happy to meet with you.

Academic Honesty: Academic misconduct policies are covered in the Student Code and Student Rights and Responsibilities, Article III. Pay close attention to the definitions of academic misconduct noted in Section 1. This can be found in the Student Handbook.

Disability: If you have any kind of disability that can affect your performance in this class, please let me know privately through email or stopping by my office.

**Schedule:** The schedule for the class will be posted to the class website. The schedule is subject to change (multiple times).

**Closing:** The most important thing in any of my classes is that you are learning and expanding your horizons. If you are having any undue difficulty with your work as it pertains to this class, please contact me as soon as possible. Always remember that professors win when you don't need us any longer. I want you to be bouncing ideas off of each other throughout the class and it is my hope that by the end of the semester that you are driving the class session rather than me.