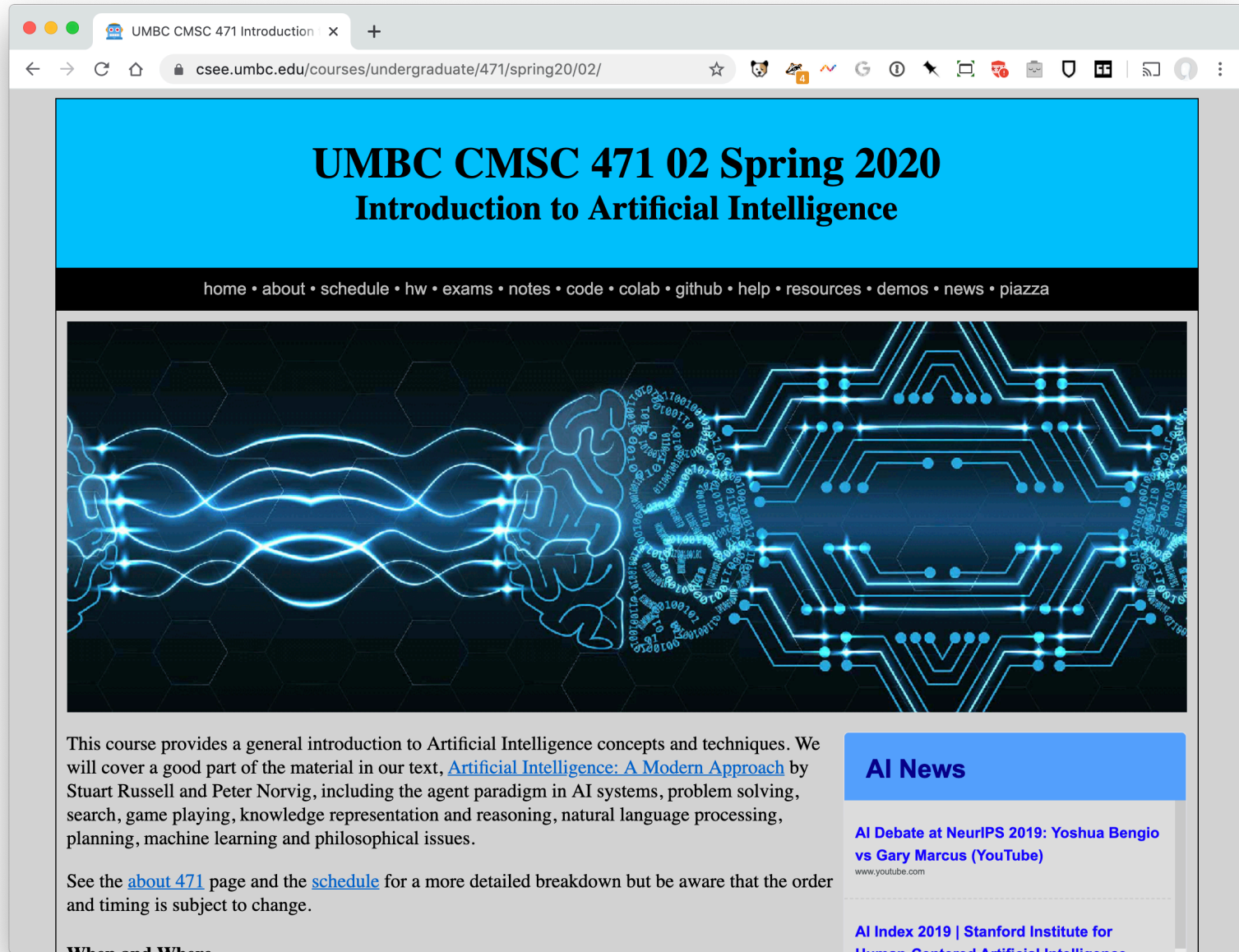# CMSC 471

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

section 1
Course Overview

Spring 2020

Today's class

- Course overview

- Introduction

  – Brief history of AI

  – What *is* AI? (and why is it so interesting?)

  – What's the state of AI now?

http://bit.ly/471s20

Homework and grading policies

- Six to eight short homework assignments (mix of written and programming)
  - One-time extensions of up to a week may be granted *if requested in advance*
  - Last-minute requests for extensions probably will not be granted
- *Do the reading before each class!*

Programming

- Programming assignments in Python
  - We'll use Python 3 in the notes and examples
- We'll use GitHub to share code, Jupyter notebooks and for HW submission
- Some assignments may require using other systems
  - E.g., C5 decision tree learning system, Weka Machine learning environments

Exams

- Midterm exam
  - In class in mid October
  - About 15% of grade
- Final exam
  - At regularly scheduled time
  - About 25% of grade
  - Comprehensive, but with an emphasis on the last half of material (e.g., 30/70 split)

Instructor availability

1. Professor Finin, finin@umbc.edu
   - Office hours: by arrangement
   - Drop in whenever my door is open
   - Direct general questions to Piazza first
   - We will try to respond to discussion list postings within 24 hours
- TA: Pat Jenkins
  patrick.jenkins213@gmail.com