CMSC 671

Principles of Artificial Intelligence

Course Overview

Fall 2015

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?

Web Resources

- Class web page

  http://cs.umbc.edu/courses/671/fall15
- Piazza discussion site

  https://piazza.com/umbc/fall2015/cmsc671/home
- Blackboard

  http://blackboard.umbc.edu/

Homework and grading policies

- Six to eight 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
- Late policy: being refined, see web next week
- ***NOTE ON READING: Please do the reading before each class!***

Programming

- You're encouraged to do assignments in Python
  - We'll use Python in the notes and examples
  - This is a good chance for you to learn Python
- In some cases, you may be able to use Java
- Why not Lisp or Prolog?
- Some assignments may require using other systems
  - E.g., C5 decision tree learning system, Weka Machine learning environment, Prolog, Jess production rule system, etc.

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

- Professor Finin
  - Office hours: by arrangement
  - Drop in whenever my door is open
  - Direct general questions (i.e., those that other students may also be wondering about and that Google can't answer) to Piazza first
  - We will try to respond to postings on the discussion list or private email messages within 24 hours
- Teaching assistant, Richa Gandhewar, office hours tbd