

# CMSC 671 (Introduction to AI) – Fall 2016

Welcome to AI!

This course will serve as an introduction to artificial intelligence concepts and techniques. We will use Python as a computational vehicle for exploring the techniques and their application. Specific topics we will cover include the history and philosophy of AI, the agent paradigm in AI systems, search, game playing, knowledge representation and reasoning, logical reasoning, uncertain reasoning and Bayes nets, planning, machine learning, and multi-agent systems, robotics, and natural language processing. If time permits, we may also briefly touch on functional programming, perception, and other topics.

**Instructor:** Dr. Cynthia Matuszek, [cmat@umbc.edu](mailto:cmat@umbc.edu), ITE 331.

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**Textbook:** *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach*, 3rd. Edition, Stuart J. Russell and Peter Norvig (auths), Prentice Hall, 2009. Note: The edition matters!

## Important URLs

This will be primarily a paperless class; this is one of very few handouts you will receive. In future, important information will be disseminated online by email or at the following URLs. Homework will be turned in online, using Blackboard, Piazza, email, or DropBox.

- <http://tiny.cc/ai-schedule>  
The class schedule. Homeworks, slides, readings, assignments, links to resources.
- <http://tiny.cc/ai-class>  
The syllabus. Course policies, classroom policies, late policies, contact information, office hours, answers to common questions.
- <http://tiny.cc/ai-piazza>  
The class Piazza page. Announcements, hints, assignment changes or clarifications, discussion forum, etc. *You are responsible* for knowing information that is posted on Piazza; sign up to receive email in a timely fashion.

## Notes

**No devices in class.** Because you will be doing some work in class, you may sometimes want to bring a laptop with you. However, except when specified, laptops, computers, and phones must remain put away. For more, read: <http://tiny.cc/devices-in-class>

“We found that participants who multitasked on a laptop during a lecture scored lower on a test compared to those who did not multitask, and participants who were in direct view of a multitasking peer scored lower on a test compared to those who were not.”

“... screens generate distraction in a manner akin to second-hand smoke.”

**Before next class,** please read the syllabus, and fill out the getting-to-know-you survey and academic integrity form, both linked from the schedule.