

**University of Texas at El Paso Department of Computer Science  
CS 4390 AI in Engineering - Spring 2024**

**Syllabus**

## **Logistics**

**Instructor:**

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**Instructional team:**

Angel U. Ortega, auortega[at]utep.edu

**Class time:** TTh 10:30 am -12:00 pm.

**Room:** CCSB 1.0202

**Office hours:** TTh 1:00 – 2:30 PM and by appointment outside this time at CCSB 3.0505.

**Email:** Please use email as the main means to contact me, I will do my best to respond within 24-48 hours of receipt.

**Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it on the 24/7 discussion board in Blackboard.

**Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages. It is recommended that you download the Blackboard Mobile App to receive notifications.

## **Course Description**

This interdisciplinary course will introduce Artificial Intelligence (with a focus on Machine Learning) to engineering students using a Smart Cities framework to understand patterns and behaviors to improve the quality of life of city residents. This course will use authentic problem-based learning. Concepts learned will be applied in a semester-long project that addresses a challenge of our region.

## **Topics**

1. Fundamentals for AI with a focus on Machine Learning.
2. Problem-solving strategies.
3. Data Engineering
4. Basic Machine Learning Concepts, e.g., regression, classification, and reinforcement learning.
5. Smart Cities Concepts and Solutions.
6. AI programming with a focus on Machine Learning.
7. Ethics, fairness, and societal impact of AI solutions.
8. Design and implementation of a Smart Cities solution addressing a regional challenge using AI.
9. Current trends in AI

## **Grading**

1. Exams and quizzes 50%.

2. Project deliveries including assignments and presentations 35%.
3. Active class participation, homework, and activities 15%.

Students taking this course at the graduate level will have an additional assignment, quiz, and additional deliverables for the project.

## Resources and Requirements

### Recommended textbook:

Artificial Intelligence a Modern Approach. Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig. 4<sup>th</sup> US Edition.

### Additional resources:

Online resources will be used in this course.

**Technology Requirements:** Course resources, assignments, and tests are delivered through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser. **Bring a charged device to lectures that can access Blackboard** (smartphone, tablet, or laptop) and can take a picture to complete and submit class exercises. Ensure you have access to a computer/laptop to install or update the list of software that will be provided in the course Blackboard shell and needed to complete assignments. This list will be provided at least a week before the software is needed.

## Expectations

### Standards of conduct

**Scholastic Dishonesty:** Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable to another person. **Cheating** is copying from the test paper of another student. Communicating with another student during a test to be taken individually. Giving or seeking aid from another student during a test to be taken individually. Possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during tests (i.e. crib notes, class notes, books, etc.). Substituting for another person to take a test. Falsifying research data, reports, academic work offered for credit. Paying a person or company to complete coursework (i.e., contract cheating). **Plagiarism** is using someone's work in your assignments without the proper citations. Submitting the same paper or assignment from a different course, without direct permission of instructors. To avoid plagiarism, see <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2012/09/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf>. **Collusion** is unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments.

*All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action.* Students are expected to comply with student standards of conduct, see [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

**AI Technologies.** Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is only allowed with approval from the instructor BEFORE being used. Without permission, you

will be expected to think creatively and critically to complete assignments without assistance from these tools.

If given permission to use any of these tools, students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). "Text of your query."

Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

**Netiquette:** With online communication, it is possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep this netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action. Additional guidelines will be provided in the Blackboard course shell.

- *Always consider audience.* This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- *Respect and courtesy* must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, *address the ideas*, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and instructors only. Please *do not copy documents or course content to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.*

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in an engaging discussion with your peers on the discussion boards and team journals
- Participating in lectures
- Completing session activities (e.g., quizzes, polls) indicated in the Blackboard course shell.

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

**Blackboard Collaborate or Zoom sessions:** The instructor may occasionally record lectures or deliver the class virtually using Blackboard Collaborate or Zoom. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will

not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share class sessions recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

**Course materials:**

The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. **They may not be further disseminated.**

**Deadlines, late work, and make-up work:** The penalty for late work is **10% per 24 hours** unless a specific assignment or homework indicates otherwise. Make-up work, exam or quizzes will be given for *documented* emergencies, e.g, providing a doctor's note. However, you can request **one make-up exam/quiz** or class activity for a reason that is not considered excusable or documentation cannot be provided. **It is therefore important to reach out to the instructor—in advance if at all possible—and explain why you missed a given course requirement.** Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted. If you have more than four non-excused absences (see UTEP Catalog for a list of excused absences) you may be dropped from the course with a grade of "W". A 72-hours advance notice may be provided to you via email.

**Submissions:** It is strongly recommended to submit your work with plenty of time to spare if you have a technical issue with Blackboard, network, and/or your computer. Save all your work (homework, quizzes, exams, and assignments) in OneDrive, the institutional cloud platform as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. Emailing work directly to the instructor should be your last resort.

**Illness Precautions.** Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

**Special accommodations:** Students requesting accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

**Student resources:** UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

#### Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

#### **NOTES:**

**When in doubt on any of the above, please contact the instructor to check if you are following authorized procedure.**