

WELCOME TO CIS 716.5

## Artificial Intelligence II

W 6.00am - 8.05pm 214 NE

Professor Simon Parsons

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Class web page:

<http://www.sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~parsons/courses/7165-spring-2006/>

## Course objectives

- To introduce you to some of the basic theory and techniques of autonomous agents and multi-agent systems.
- To give you experience of applying the theory.
- To give you practical experience of using the techniques.

## Introduce you to some of the basic theory...

- In particular, this course will teach you about:
  - Intelligent agents
  - Deductive agents
  - Practical reasoning agents
  - Reactive and Hybrid Agents
  - Multiagent Interactions
  - Reaching Agreements
  - Communication
  - Working together
  - Methodologies
  - Logics for multiagent systems

### Give you experience of applying the theory...

- In other words there are homeworks.
- Some homeworks will be answering the usual questions
- Other homeworks will involve reading papers and writing about them.

### Give you experience of applying the techniques...

- In other words there is project work.
- The aim of the projects are to get you to use the techniques we will cover in lectures to build real agents.
- The project work will involve programming LEGO Mindstorms robots.
- This means some classes will involve practical work, programming.

### Resources

- Lectures
- Textbook
  - Wooldridge, An Introduction to MultiAgent Systems
- Lecture notes
- Web page
  - <http://www.sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~parsons/courses/716-spring-2005/>
- Me

### Lectures

- Our timetabled sessions run from 6.00am to 8.05pm
- I plan to take a break every week about half way through.
- The schedule of lecture topics will be posted on the class web page under “syllabus”.

## Office Hours

- There is one hour of office hours a week.
- I will be in my office for office hours 5pm – 6pm before the class.
- I also run “virtual office hours”, where I log onto IM and you can ask me questions.
- I’ll be on IM using the screenname:  
    profSimonParsons  
    between 9pm and 12pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

## Textbook

*An Introduction to MultiAgent Systems*  
by Michael Wooldridge  
Wiley, 2002  
ISBN 0-471-49691-X (paperback)



available from Amazon and (I hope) the college bookstore.

## Assessment

- Out of 100 points
- Homework assignments (20 points total)
- 2 exams (50 points total)
  - midterm (20 points)
  - final exam (30 points)
- 2 projects (30 points total)
- *Dates for midterm and final will be posted as soon as possible*

## A word about homeworks

- Should be done on your own, as much as possible
- Get help from me, friends  
*but you must acknowledge all help received by citing the names of those who helped you.*
- This not only protects you from being accused of cheating, but also protects you in case your helper gives you misinformation

### Homeworks: submission policy

- Homeworks are due on the day that they are due
- Here are the rules — please know them well:
  - Hardcopies must be brought to class on Thursday and deposited on the desk at the front of the classroom.
  - If your hardcopy does not make it on the right day, I will mark it, but you will lose 10% for every day the homework is late.
  - If you must miss class, try to have a friend deposit your hardcopy.

### Other submission details

- Submission details for projects will be posted on the class web page.
- Exceptions and extensions are possible, primarily based on MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.
- Circumstances must be documented and suitable arrangements will be made.
- You must consult me via email on an individual basis.
- This holds for all kinds of submission.

### Regrade policy

- If you feel that there was an error in grading your homework, project or exam, then you need to write on a piece of paper a description of the error.
- STAPLE the paper to your homework, project or exam and leave it with me to be regraded.
- Know that I mark with a list of expectations for each homework assignment, project and exam problem, knowing where to take off points — so if your complaint is that too many points were taken off for one kind of mistake or another, then generally those types of things will not change in a regrade.

- If there is a genuine error in the marking, like I thought something was missing, but it is really there, then you will likely get points restored.
- HOWEVER, a regrade means that the entire assignment or exam will be remarked, so be aware that your mark can go DOWN as well as UP.
- Regrades take while to process, so be patient — if you need the work to study from, then make a copy of it before you turn it in for a regrade.

### A word about lectures

- The slides I use will be placed on the web page.
- But they are NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR COMING TO CLASS.
- I know, I used to skip classes too
- If you must miss a class, YOU are responsible for getting notes from someone who did come to class
- If you miss class you will not get any credit for the seminar section of the class.

- I will usually post lecture notes on the web before class BUT:
  - you learn better when you actually have to write things down yourself
  - just reading along with my notes makes you sleepy
  - everything I say is NOT in the lecture notes, but anything I say MIGHT be on an exam or in a homework, so you need to take notes on what I say
  - sometimes there are mistakes in the lecture notes which get caught during class; so you will only get the correct version if you come to class and take notes.

### A word about exams

Exams:

- The worst means of assessment apart from all the other means of assessment.
- The only way I know you are doing your own work
- The only way YOU know you are doing your own work
- Are not hard if you really know the material
- Notice my weighting scheme for exams
  - midterm: 20%
  - final exam: 30%

### A word about feedback

- Homeworks, projects and exams let me know how you are doing.
- In a way, they let me know how I am doing, as a reflection of how you are doing.
- But, I welcome feedback from you.
  - Email,
  - comments during office hours (real or virtual),
  - anonymous written notes.

### A word about academic integrity

- The work you submit for assessment should be completed ON YOUR OWN.
- You may get help from me, friends.
- You must acknowledge all help given.
- You should not download material from the web and submit it as your own work.
- You should not mail code or copy files.
- If someone asks you to do this, *JUST SAY NO!*

### About the instructor

- Undergrad: University of Cambridge, Engineering, class of 1988
- Grad school: University of London, PhD 1993
- Previous teaching:
  - Queen Mary & Westfield College, London, UK.
  - University of Liverpool, UK.
  - Universidad Politecnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain.
  - Universidad Nacional del Sur, Bahia Blanca, Argentina.
  - Columbia University.
- research interests:
  - Software agents;
  - Rational action; and
  - Multi-agent systems.

### About you.

- Please take out a piece of paper and write down...
  - Your name.
  - Your email address.
  - Which Masters program you are in.
  - How far through the program you are.
  - Why you are taking this course.
  - What you hope to get out of this course.
  - When would be a good time for virtual office hours
  - One sentence about one wonderful thing you did over the holidays.
- ...and give it to me before you take a break.