

First Year Odyssey:

Artificial Intelligence - It's for real!

Call Number: 91830

Mondays, 12:20pm-1:10pm

GSRC 208 (building code: 1023)

Instructor:

Don Potter

Department of Computer Science

Institute for Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making its way into everyday life more and more since the mid-1980's. Almost everyone has a "smart" phone, automobile companies offer new cars with even more intelligent driver assistance capabilities, video games are often marketed as having "new and improved" AI, even small companies use some sort of decision support system that uses AI technology, and most recently Watson whipped the two best Jeopardy champions of all time at their own game.

During our Odyssey, we will explore the foundations of artificial intelligence, its application in a modern technological world, the potential for AI to contribute to our future, and whether AI really ought to be part of our lives now and/or in the future. We will look at the development of AI from its humble beginnings, address the era known as the "AI Winter", and continue on to the present day and beyond. We will discuss decision making from the human point of view as well as the computer's point of view. Students will be expected to present topics for discussion related to AI, its applications, methodologies, points/counter-points, and the relationship between AI and what we think of as real intelligence. If time permits, we will attempt to see "AI in action" through intelligent computer agent behavior and/or AI-based problem solving.

Don Potter is Director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence, and Professor of Computer Science. His research and teaching interests include nature inspired optimization, heuristic search, and artificial intelligence. He is currently working on several projects dealing with the application of AI techniques to forest harvest scheduling, path finding in graphs, temperature prediction, and Gothic cathedral analysis.

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