Computer Science 3201
Introduction to Nature Inspired Computing
Winter 2020

Instructor: Mark Hatcher
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- include COMP3201 in the subject line
- correspondence within the university must be via a valid @mun.ca email account
- note that I DO NOT check email in Brightspace (D2L)

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2 to 2:50pm, EN2043

Course Prerequisite: COMP 2002

Course Content:
We will look at some popular nature-inspired computing methods. These methods have been applied to solve problems in various areas of the real world. Particular examples of nature-inspired computing methods studied include cellular automata, artificial life, neural networks, evolutionary computation and swarm intelligence.

Evaluation Scheme:
Assessment will be made through 4 assignments, each worth 20%, and a midterm exam also worth 20%.

There is no final exam for this course.

Where an assignment requires programming, it will be done in Java.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Approximate Due Dates (these may change)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Assignments</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>January 24th, February 7th, March 6th, March 27th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>February 26th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Text:
The course structure is based on this text, which is highly recommended but not compulsory:

- Introduction to Evolutionary Computing, 2nd Edition (Eiben & Smith)
Important Notes:

1. Memorial University of Newfoundland is committed to supporting inclusive education based on the principles of equity, accessibility and collaboration. Accommodations are provided within the scope of the University Policies for the Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (www.mun.ca/policy/site/policy.php?id=239). Students who may need an academic accommodation are asked to initiate the request with the Glenn Roy Blundon Centre at the earliest opportunity (www.mun.ca/blundon).

2. In the event of university closure on the day of a test, the test will be given in the next class/lab meeting.

3. Assignments will require programming in Java. This programming language is available on the computers in several labs on campus. See the Accessing your LabNet Account on Campus link in Brightspace.

4. Assignments and project iterations are due at 4:59 p.m. on the specified date, in the specified manner. No late assignments will be accepted. It is your responsibility to make sure that the correct files are actually uploaded or present, so check for the confirmation that your files have been uploaded.

5. If, for special circumstances (such as medical or bereavement) you are going to miss an assignment or test, you must notify your instructor before the assignment deadline or the start of the test, and must subsequently provide any related documentation (if required). Failure to do this can result in a mark of 0% for that work. Please refer to the current University policy regarding medical notes and the information to be in them. For more information, please see the University Calendar - University Regulations - General Academic Regulations (Undergraduate) 6.7.5 (Exemptions from Parts of the Evaluation) and 6.15 (Appeal of Decisions) or consult the Registrar's Office. If your reasons for the missed work are acceptable, then your instructor will provide details of any alternate evaluation scheme.

6. It is important to note that this course does not have an option for writing a deferred midterm exam. If, for any reason, you are going to miss a class exam, you should contact your instructor right away, before the exam begins, giving the reasons for missing the exam, and requesting that the weight of the missed exam be added to the weight of the other forms of assessment. If you first contact the instructor after the missed exam, you will have to provide documentation that proves why it was not possible to make contact beforehand. Any change will be subject to approval.

7. No supplementary exam will be given for this course. (See Supplementary Exams - University Calendar - Faculty of Science Degree Regulations 7.3 - Regulations to Govern Supplementary Exams in the Departments of Biochemistry, Computer Science, and Mathematics and Statistics.)

8. Assignments and the class exam must be original and independent work. Copying someone else's work or allowing your work to be copied is a serious breach of university regulations and ethics. Any and all copied material will receive the mark of 0%. If your assignments are quite similar then it can be construed as copying. (Even if you have done your own work but have consulted a friend as you are doing the assignment then the assignment will turn out to be quite similar.) Please see the University Calendar - General Academic Regulations (Undergraduate) - 6.12 (Academic Misconduct).