

# ECE 57000: Artificial Intelligence Syllabus

## Course Information

ECE 57000, Fall 2023

CRNs: 34846 (002), 29604 (OL1), 29583 (EPE)

MWF, 3:30pm-4:20pm ET

Location: **Physics 114**

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Graduate standing, or ECE 302 and ECE 368 for undergraduates

Course website including tentative schedule, due dates, and important links:

<https://www.davidinouye.com/course/ece57000-fall-2023/>

Piazza for announcements and discussion (must signup ASAP):

<https://piazza.com/purdue/fall2023/ece57000>

## Instructor

David I. Inouye

BHEE 332, 765-496-0238

[dinouye@purdue.edu](mailto:dinouye@purdue.edu)

Instructor office hours: TBD

Instructor's Webpage: <https://www.davidinouye.com/>

## Teaching Assistants

### Graduate TAs

Ruqi Bai	bai116@purdue.edu
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### Undergraduate TAs

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TA Lab hours: TBD

## Course Description

This course will provide a graduate-level introduction to artificial intelligence (AI), which is broadly defined as any method that enables intelligent behavior in computers. Topics may include machine learning, probabilistic methods, representation learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and special topics. The course will cover technical concepts, intuitions, and algorithms and will include basic training in AI research.

## Expectations / Prerequisites

This class is oriented towards first-year graduate students. The course will expect knowledge of linear algebra, probability distributions, random variables, and Python programming. If you are not familiar with these subjects, this may not be the right class for you; or, you will be expected to (re-)learn these concepts on your own.

I have posted a **prerequisite quiz** on the class website to help you decide if you have the necessary background for this course or should consider taking at a future time. This quiz is entirely optional and will not count towards your grade in the class.

**This syllabus is required reading** and you will be required to know the policies outlined in this syllabus. Questions about the syllabus may appear on quizzes.

## Learning Outcomes

1. The ability to write programs for artificial intelligence techniques. [1,6,7]
2. The ability to modify or implement one current artificial intelligence research method. [1,6,7]
3. The ability to write a report on a current artificial intelligence research topic. [3,6]

## Topics and Course Schedule (tentative)

The tentative course schedule will be posted on the course website. The topics and dates are tentative and subject to change. Any substantive changes will be announced on Piazza.

1. Introduction to artificial intelligence
2. Machine learning basics
3. Deep learning basics
4. Natural language processing basics
5. Dimensionality reduction

6. Generative models
7. Markov decision processes
8. Special topics

## Course Assessment and Grading

No +/- for grades; only letter grades A, B, C, D, or F. Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the semester. The instructor will determine the final grade cutoffs, but the cutoffs will be equal to or lower than the standard cutoffs. The standard cutoffs are A if  $\geq 90\%$ , B if  $\geq 80\%$ , C if  $\geq 70\%$ , D if  $\geq 60\%$ , and F otherwise (e.g., if you have  $\geq 90\%$  you are guaranteed an A). No final exam.

- 25% - Quizzes
  - Lowest 2 dropped to account for exceptional circumstances like sickness, etc.
- 25% - Programming assignments
  - Lowest 3 dropped to account for exceptional circumstances like sickness, etc.
- 50% - Course project (including checkpoints, peer reviews, project deliverables, presentation, and participation)

### Quizzes

There will be 10-15 short quizzes throughout the semester. Most quizzes will focus on recent content but three of them will be review quizzes and can cover any material up to that point. All quizzes including review quizzes will be weighted equally.

### Programming Assignments

There will be 9-11 programming assignments throughout the semester. The assignments are meant to reinforce the content and provide hands-on experience with the common tools of AI/ML. **All regrade requests must be submitted on Gradescope.** Regrade requests over email will not be accepted.

### Course Project

The course project will require reading several recent AI/ML research papers and reimplementing one of these papers. To ensure progress throughout the semester, you will be required to submit various project checkpoints and peer review other students' work. More details will be released on the course website.

### Missed or Late Work

Quizzes: Quizzes will be released on or before class on Wednesday and will be due **24 hours later**. Given that a 24-hour window will be given, no late quiz submissions will be accepted. **Any late or missed quizzes will receive a 0.** Note: To accommodate for exceptional circumstances (e.g., sickness), I will drop your 2 lowest quiz grades (including a 0 if you missed a quiz) as previously mentioned.

Assignments and course project materials are due **on or before 11:59pm ET (midnight)** on the day they are due unless otherwise specified.

- One day late: 20% penalty (of the max score)
- More than one day: Grade of 0

For Peer Circuit (checkpoint, paper, and peer review submission), we plan to give everyone the ability to submit late. However, the late policy above will apply. If you submit beyond 24 hours after the due

date, you will receive a grade of 0 for that checkpoint (even if Circuit allows you to submit later than 24 hours).

### DRC Accommodations

If you would like to use your DRC accommodations, **you must send me an email request at least 2 business days before the due date to arrange for the accommodations.** If I receive a notification from DRC, we will add the time extension on Gradescope for quizzes. However, any other accommodation must be **explicitly** requested by the student.

## Logistics and Technology Summary

- **Course material via course website**  
Slides, assignments, Jupyter notebooks, and links will be posted on the course website.
- **Discussion via Piazza**  
Any questions should be posted on Piazza rather than emailing TA or instructor so that students can help each other, and everyone can benefit from the questions and answers.
- **Quizzes and assignments via Gradescope**  
All quizzes and assignments will be turned in via Gradescope. Quizzes will be made available for a time window. Once started, however, the quiz will need to be finished in a short time period (probably 30-90s per question). The quizzes will be open notes but no communication is allowed with other students during or after.
- **Course project and peer reviews via Circuit (<https://purdue.peercircuit.org/>)**  
Course project checkpoints, peer reviews, and final deliverables will be submitted to Circuit.
- **Grades on Brightspace**  
Brightspace will primarily be used to compile all grades.
- **Computing / GPU resources via Google Colab (<https://colab.research.google.com/>)**  
All programming assignments will be designed to execute on Google Colab, which includes free GPU acceleration and the necessary packages. You will need a free Google account to use Colab.

## Required Materials

### Google Colab Pro

**Google Colab Pro (\$10 per month, \$40 for semester) is required for the assignments in this course. (However, see notes below about how to possibly use free Colab.)**

While the free version of Google Colab may be enough for the assignments, we cannot guarantee the availability of the free version, especially GPU resources. Therefore, if you would like to save money, I would suggest using Colab free and avoid using the GPU runtime on Colab until you are done debugging your code. If you run into compute issues, you can then buy \$10 of compute units as needed instead of the Colab Pro monthly subscription.

You are also free to use your own Python notebook environment for completing the assignments, but the TAs will only support the Colab environment. The TAs will not be able to help with your Python environment setup.

## Textbooks

No required textbook. We will not follow any particular textbook but related reading will be posted if appropriate. Below are a few supplemental textbooks that may be useful.

(Optional) *Deep Learning* by Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio, and Aaron Courville, 2016. Available for free online at <http://www.deeplearningbook.org> or physical copy available on Amazon. - Part I is a good introduction to core concepts that covers the fundamental mathematical, computational, and machine learning concepts useful for the rest of this class.

(Optional) *Machine Learning: A Probabilistic Perspective* by Kevin P. Murphy, 2012. Available online via Purdue's library system: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/purdue/detail.action?docID=3339490>. - This is a good reference book and some chapters may help supplement the lectures. Chapter 2 on probability may be a useful reference.

(Optional) *Python Data Science Handbook* by Jake VanderPlas, 2016. Available for reading online at <https://jakevdp.github.io/PythonDataScienceHandbook/>. - This could be a useful book for some of the Python tools used in this course.

## Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class periods in person (or remotely if an online student) per Purdue's academic regulations. If a student misses a class, **the student** is still responsible for knowing all missed content including any announcements.

For the project presentation class periods, attendance (via Zoom) will be required (**Nov 27, Nov 29, Dec 1, Dec 4, Dec 6, and Dec 8**) and could affect your final project grade. These will be **virtual presentations in Zoom breakout rooms** to accommodate the large number of project presentations and encourage active participation. If you are an online student and cannot make these times because of work or other constraints, please let the instructor know.

## Communication Policies

**All students are expected to sign up for the Piazza class the first day of class or earlier and regularly check for announcements.** Piazza will be used for all announcements and class discussions. Please post any questions to Piazza instead of emailing me or the TAs unless the issue is confidential in nature. This should help you receive answers faster. Additionally, you can post anonymously if you feel uncomfortable posting with your name. If you email the instructor or TA with a question, we will likely ask you to re-ask the question on Piazza if appropriate. We hope to reply to unanswered questions *within 1-2 business days (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri)*. Note this means that you may not receive an answer on Piazza on the day the assignment is due so I would encourage you to start early and ask early.

I will be available via email during normal business hours (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri), and try to respond as soon as possible (generally within 1-2 business days). When emailing me, please place the course number/section in the subject line of the email (e.g., ECE 57000 ...). This will help me locate and

respond to your emails quickly. **Please use Piazza for asking questions whenever possible so that others can benefit from your questions.**

### Instructor Office Hours

I will expect that you have been attending lectures regularly (or if an online student, watching the video lectures) and reviewing the notes before asking questions in office hours. Additionally, I will expect that you have put some effort into understanding the material. **I will give preference to research or conceptual questions** over assignment/debugging questions because assignment questions could be answered by the TAs.

### TA Lab Hours

You must be able to explain your code to the TA—at least what you are trying to do. **If you cannot explain your code, the TAs will move to the next person.** This will aid in efficiency and ensure that you have tried to understand before asking a question. Also, to be reasonably fair to all students, the TAs plan to use an office hour queue system. The TA will answer **1 main question or code issue for up to 10 minutes** (but if your 1 question can be answered faster, they will move on before 10 minutes). You can rejoin the queue and they will circle back around when they are able.

## Academic Integrity

**Any cheating or academic dishonesty will be penalized with a failing grade in the course. All acts of cheating or dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students.**

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing [integrity@purdue.edu](mailto:integrity@purdue.edu) or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information that is submitted provides the greatest opportunity for the university to investigate the concern. Please see [Purdue's student guide for academic integrity](#) for more information. When in doubt, please discuss with the instructor. It is far better to discuss difficult circumstances with the instructor, than to be dishonest.

### Large Language Models (LLM, e.g., ChatGPT, GPT4, Bard, GitHub Co-Pilot) Policy

**You must acknowledge any use of LLMs by documenting which prompts you used and for what.**

For coding, you can use comments to give which prompts you used to generate the initial code. Similarly, you may use LLMs for editing your writing but you should explain exactly how you used it and the prompts that you used. For writing/checkpoints/paper, please put your usage documentation in the appendix of the report. You will likely need to validate any code/writing that is generated and edit any generated text/code to ensure correctness. **In TA lab hours, you must be able to explain what your code is doing whether generated by LLMs or not.** Ultimately you are responsible for all content and you need to acknowledge your use of it, though you will not be penalized if you do. **Failure to document your usage of LLMs could result in a failure of the course.**

### Academic Integrity Policy for Quizzes

While taking a quiz, you should not communicate with anyone in the class in any way including but not limited to text messaging, phone calls, hand signals, or smoke signals. After the quiz, you cannot

discuss or share **any** information about the quiz or quiz questions. Any sharing of quiz information will result in failure of the course.

### Academic Integrity Policy for Programming Assignments

For programming assignments, feel free to talk with other classmates about the assignments. However, do not view, share, or copy code in any way (even just looking at someone's screen or writing on a whiteboard). **Only talk, no code.** Neither should you talk in such detail that you would both write the same programs. I reserve the right to run code similarity checks on all submitted code to find instances of academic dishonesty. Also, **sharing your code** with other students is also an academic integrity violation. Do not share code with anyone if they ask. You should refer them to the instructor if there are any extenuating circumstances.

### Academic Integrity Policy for Course Project

Because each project should be unique, I will allow more freedom in collaborating or discussing the course project code. You can help each other debug or discuss the actual code. Both students will likely learn from this exercise. However, the student associated with the project should be the one actually writing all the code. Your project implementation should be your work. Additionally, no student should feel any obligation to help another student. **If you let others view your code and help in any substantial way, you must acknowledge their help in your term paper under an "Acknowledgements" section at the end of the term paper (e.g. "John Doe helped me debug my code.").** If there is any doubt, please discuss with me before engaging in that activity.

### Plagiarism

Any sort of plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty. Do not copy anything from published papers unless you quote and cite it. **For any idea that came from another source (even if it is not a direct quote), you must put a citation.** This includes when you summarize or critique a research paper. You must use your own words to summarize the paper and add a citation to the paper. If there is any doubt, again, please ask before submitting. For more information please see [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/using\\_research/avoiding\\_plagiarism/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/avoiding_plagiarism/index.html)

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### Nondiscrimination Statement

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. Purdue's nondiscrimination policy [can be found here](#).

## Accessibility and Accommodations

Purdue University is committed to making learning experiences accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: [drc@purdue.edu](mailto:drc@purdue.edu) or by phone: 765-494-1247.

## Mental Health Statement

- If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [WellTrack](#). Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.
- If you need support and information about options and resources, please see the Office of the Dean of Students, <http://www.purdue.edu/odos>, for drop-in hours (M-F, 8 am- 5 pm).
- If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at (765)494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

## Basic Needs Security

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. There is no appointment needed and Student Support Services is available to serve students 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Considering the significant disruptions caused by the current global crisis as it related to COVID-19, students may submit requests for emergency assistance from the [Critical Needs Fund](#)

## Emergency Statement

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. *You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.*

## Disclaimer

This syllabus is tentative and is subject to change. See course website for course schedule including due dates; the course schedule is also subject to change. Any substantive changes will be announced in class and on Piazza.