CS 6100 Multi Agent Systems  Spring 2010 Course Information
Instructor:
   Dr. Vicki Allan, Vicki.Allan@usu.edu, 429 Old Main, 797-2022
Office Hours:
   TH 10:30-1200, TH 1:30-2:30  Other hours by appointment. Send email to set up.
Prerequisites:
   Prerequisite: You are expected to be able to program well and be able to pick up a new language, if needed. Some appreciation for parallelism is expected. You need to have had an operating systems class.
Tardiness
   There is absolutely no reason to come to this class late. I feel very strongly about this. This has been a problem in the past and I will not allow it! When you come to class late, every person in the room is distracted by your entrance (including your professor). You miss important material. You are saying to your professor, "My time and my schedule are more important than what you have to teach me."! On the job, if you don't come to work, you will be fired. If you come late, you will be reprimanded. Come to class and come on time! It is good practice for the real world.
Cell Phones:
   Please turn off cell phones before coming to class. When a cell phone goes off, it disturbs your instructor and everyone else in the class. The penalty for allowing your cell phone to go off in class is that you will be expected to bring treats for the whole class the next period!
Texts:
Written Homework:
   Written homework may be done independently or with one or two other people. Since programming has a high overhead in terms of program entry and debugging, all important topics in this course cannot be covered via programming projects. Written homework exercises allow students to learn important material without a high time investment. Although the point value is low, the benefits are great.
Preparation:
   Preparation is necessary for learning. For this class, preparation includes attending class regularly (90% of the time), coming on time, remaining focused until class is dismissed, asking timely questions, trying problems at your seats when directed to do so, answering questions when called upon, completing homework questions, paying attention during lecture, and reading appropriate text material before coming to class. In an effort to get you to come to class prepared, discussion points will be awarded for participation on randomly selected days. Be sure to look at the code of conduct statement http://www.cs.usu.edu/display.html?id=10034.
Best and Quest:
   To facilitate discussion, you may be asked to
   (a) summarize the best ideas in the reading in 2-3 paragraphs
   (b) ask three INTERESTING questions regarding the material
   This will be turned in via Eagle before class and will be termed a "Best and Quest"
Programming Assignments:

Programming assignments are due at midnight on the date posted. I like to be flexible about due
dates at the graduate level. Thus, you are allowed to turn in one assignment up to a week late
without penalty. Any other late assignment will be docked 10% per day it is late.

We will be using Eagle to turn in programming assignments. See http://eagle.cs.usu.edu. Create
an account using this web address so that you can get email and grades.

Program writeups are available from the class homepage and will not normally be handed out in
class. The class homepage is at http://www.cs.usu.edu/~allanv/cs6100/cs6100.htm

Submit a zip file containing the following:

A file named README which gives running instructions, tells the user what system was used
to compile the program, and explains any special settings required. This file also includes
answers to any report questions asked.
The complete project needed to run the program.

Each assignment is to be your own work. To the extent you copy the framework or the idea from
any source (including the book), be sure to acknowledge that source. Undoubtedly, some of the
assignments we do will exist somewhere on the web. Copying is not permitted.

Programming assignments are graded giving half the points for correct output and half the points
for complete, well designed, and documented code. I rarely alter the due date of an assignment,
and will not do so unless all students can be informed of the change at least two days before the
original due date. Any changes in date would be announced via electronic mail.

Exams:

There will be two midterm exams (each worth 100 points) held February 25 and April 22nd. The
final exam period is Tuesday, May 4th from 9:30-11:30 and will consist of presentation of the final
project. Attendance is mandatory. I do not give make up exams. Please verify that you will be
able to take the exams at the given times. Exams will de-emphasize memorization and
encourage critical thinking.

Quizzes:

There may be unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. They will normally be given within
the first five minutes of class. There is no make-up for quizzes.

Rough Grading:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>(40)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>Project</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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I generally figure 90-100% is an A, 80-90% is a B, 65-80% is a C, 50-65% is a D, and below 50% is
an F. However, grades vary (up or down) somewhat depending on the difficulty of assignments
and tests. As a graduate student in this department, you must maintain a 3.0 GPA in all your
courses (not just those on your program of study). However, this does not mean that only A and B grades will be given for this course. I would expect that most of you will earn A and B grades, but you will be given the grade you earn. Falling below a 3.0 cumulative GPA creates serious problems for you regarding your standing in this department. Take every precaution to guarantee that you will succeed in your coursework.

**Class Project:**
You will complete a research project using current articles as a base. The project will consist of the motivation for your experiment and a working program which yields interesting results. The major reason for doing the project is to study current articles. See the web for a more complete description of this project.

**Incompletes:** According to university policy, incompletes are not to be given for poor performance. There will be no incompletes given except for conditions beyond the student's control. Such conditions have to have written documentation. The term "conditions beyond the student's control" includes (1) incapacitating illnesses that prevent a student from attending classes for a period of at least two weeks; (2) a death in the immediate family; (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter course schedule to secure employment; (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer; or (5) other emergencies of this nature. When an incomplete is given, it is anticipated that the remaining work will be finished within two or three weeks. If the course must be retaken to make up the work, an incomplete is not appropriate. There are provisions in case of emergency to permit a student to withdraw (grade of W) from a course after the regular drop period when it is not feasible to give an I.

**ADA Statement:** Students with physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

**Class Fees:** Associated with this class is a fee of $25. The monies from this fee are used to maintain lab facilities for the class, purchase software and licenses, and supervise the lab. In some cases, students may have their own computing equipment, and thus feel that they do not need to use the lab. However, the lab must be maintained regardless of an individual's use of it, and thus the fee is charged to all registered for the class. If you have questions or concerns about the fee, please see the department head.

**Late Adds:** The last day to add this class is Sept 17th. Attending this class beyond that date without being officially registered will not be approved by the Dean's Office. Students must be officially registered for this class. No assignments or tests of any kind will be graded for students whose names do not appear on the class list.

**Drop Date:** The last day to drop classes is

- Feb 1st - without a notation on transcript.
- Mar 12th - with a "W" notation on transcript.
- April 5th - with a "WF" notation on transcript