



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

APPLIED COMPUTER SCIENCE

GACS-7206-001 Advanced Machine Learning

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Sheela Ramanna
E-mail: s.ramanna@uwinnipeg.ca

Class Meeting Time: T, Th 10:00 - 11:15am
Lecture Room No: 3D03

Office Hours: T 11:30-12:30, Th: 2:15 to 3:15pm
Friday (Remote): By appointment
ZOOM coordinates will be communicated via email.

Important Dates

1. First Class: Jan. 6
2. Final Withdrawal Date w/o academic penalty: March 13
(A minimum of 20% of the work on which the final grade is based will be evaluated and available to the student before the voluntary withdrawal date)
3. Reading Week: Feb 15-21 (No classes)
4. Last Class: April 2
5. Final Project Presentations Date: TBD
6. The university will be closed on February 16 (Louis Riel Day), April 3 (Good Friday)

Lectures on Feb. 10 and Feb. 12 will be on Intro NLP + demo by the TA . There will be no office hours in the week of February 9-13.

Course Objectives

This course covers well-known machine learning and deep learning algorithms. Topics include *supervised learning* (generative/discriminative learning, parametric/non-parametric learning, neural networks, support vector machines); *unsupervised learning* (clustering, dimensionality reduction); *learning theory* (bias/variance tradeoffs, optimization). The second focus of this course is on Natural Language Processing (NLP) and deep neural models for language processing tasks. Large Language Models (LLMs) will be discussed. Applications of machine learning and deep learning are introduced via case studies. The course is also meant to give experience to students in preparing a peer reviewed paper as a part of a class project. Familiarity with Python is strongly recommended.

Note: A permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams.

Tentative List of Topics

- **Supervised Learning**
 - Classifiers: Tree-based, Rule-Based, Bayesian, K-Nearest Neighbour, Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machines, Neural Networks
- **Unsupervised Learning**
 - Clustering Methods: Partitional, Hierarchical, Density-based, Probabilistic
- **Numeric Prediction** (regression)
- **Ensemble Methods**
- **Other topics**
 - Sampling, Metrics, Data Fairness, Bias, Responsible AI
- **Deep Neural Language Models** (CNN, RNN, LSTM, Encoder/Decoder and Transformers)
 - **Large Language Models (LLMs)** – strengths and weaknesses
- **Case Studies** with neural language models (sentiment analysis and text summarization)

Evaluation Criteria

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| ➤ Assignments (3)
A1 (10%), A2 (15%), A3 (15%) | 40% |
| ➤ Participation | 3% |
| ➤ Project Proposal Presentation (5%) + Report (7%) | 12% |
| ➤ Final Project (35%) + Presentation (10%) | 45% |

Participation: Each student must submit a **participation report** at the end of the term. Participation activities include: participating in class presentations and discussions (e.g., Q/A). **Each student is required to attend ALL presentation of their peers.** Instructions on the completing a participation report will be given in class.

Reports: All assignments and reports **must be written in LaTeX**. Instructions on the specific tools as well as sample templates will be given in class.

Final Project

- Preparing a project proposal (max. 5 pages)
- Reading a few high-quality peer-reviewed papers related to the proposal topic
- Implementing a solution
- Preparing a project report (max 20 pages)

The Final Project will be evaluated based on, i) innovative solution, ii) working software, iii) technical soundness and completeness, and iv) quality of the project report. The report must be prepared using a standard template which will be provided in class.

Late Submission Policy:

You are allowed to submit assignments late by up to 2 days. Each day will result in a penalty of 10% of your grade.

Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible if extenuating circumstances require missing a lab, assignment, test or examination. A medical certificate from a practicing physician may be required before any adjustments are considered.

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.
<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility-services>

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2025-26 Undergraduate Academic Calendar online at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

Final Letter Grade Assignment

Historically, numerical percentages have been converted to letter grades using the following scale. However, instructors can deviate from these values based on pedagogical nuances of a particular class, and final grades are subject to approval by the department.

A+	90+ - 100%	B	70 - 74%	F	below 50%
A	85 - 90%	C+	65 - 69%		
A-	80 - 84%	C	60 - 64%		
B+	75 - 79%	D	50 - 59%		

NOTE: Final grades require departmental/program approval and may be subject to change.

Reading List*

There is no specific textbook for this course. Course notes and links to free materials on the topics covered in class will be shared in class and will be made available via NEXUS.

Prerequisite Information (This information can be found in the UW Graduate calendar)
Consent of the Department Graduate Program Committee Chair or Instructor.

Regulations, Policies, and Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Academic Regulations and Policies found in the University Academic Calendar at:
<https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>
Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals) and 10 (Grade Appeals).

Avoiding Academic Misconduct: Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense and will be dealt in accordance with the University's policies.

Detailed information can be found at the following:

- Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
- About Academic Integrity and Misconduct, Resources and FAQs: <https://library.uwinnipeg.ca/use-the-library/help-with-research/academic-integrity.html>

Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.

Academic Integrity and AI Text-generating Tools:

Students must follow principles of academic integrity (e.g., honesty, respect, fairness, and responsibility) in their use of material obtained through AI text-generating tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Bing, Notion AI). If an instructor prohibits the use of AI tools in a course, students may face an allegation of academic misconduct if using them to do assignments. If AI tools are permitted, students must cite them. According to the MLA (<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>), writers should

- cite a generative AI tool whenever you paraphrase, quote, or incorporate into your own work any content (whether text, image, data, or other) that was created by it
- acknowledge all functional uses of the tool (like editing your prose or translating words) in a note, your text, or another suitable location
- take care to vet the secondary sources it cites

If students are not sure whether or not they can use AI tools, they should ask their professors.

Non-academic misconduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment, irrespective of the platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies could be considered “non-academic” misconduct. More detailed information can be found here:

- Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html>,
- Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf>
- Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

Copyright and Intellectual Property: Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture

notes, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor's intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the Academic Misconduct or Non-Academic Misconduct Policy; such consequences could possibly involve legal sanction under the Copyright Policy: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/copyright-policy.pdf>

Privacy

Students have rights in relation to the collection of personal data by the University of Winnipeg.

- Student Privacy: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>
- Zoom Privacy: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>
- Exam and Proctoring: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>

Class Cancellation, Correspondence with Students and Withdrawing from Course

When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, the course instructor will make every effort to inform students via UWinnipeg email and Nexus.

Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or the course instructor.

Please let the course instructor know if you plan on withdrawing from the course. Note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

Student Wellness

The University of Winnipeg affirms the importance of student mental health and our commitment to providing accessible, culturally appropriate, and effective services for students. Students who are seeking mental health supports are encouraged to reach out to the Wellness Centre at studentwellness@uwinnipeg.ca or 204-258-3809. For community-based mental health resources and supports, students are encouraged to dial 2-1-1. This program of United Way is available 24/7 in 150 languages. Other resources and contact information can be found at the following link: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness/contact-us.html>.

Sexual Violence and Human Rights Advisor (SVHRA)

Students who have experienced Sexual Violence can access support from the SVHRA. The SVHRA receives disclosures and can support students with on and off-campus reporting. In collaboration with the Sexual Violence Response Team (SVRT), the SVHRA also provides fast-track referrals to Student Wellness, academic accommodations, security support, and other on and off campus supports. The SVHRA and SVRT operate within a confidential, survivor-centered, and trauma-informed framework. <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/sexual-violence/>

Disclosures may be made in-person, email, by text, by phone, or Zoom/Teams.

5Ri55, 5th Floor (Rice Centre)
204.230.6660 – call or text (confidential line)
svrt@uwinnipeg.ca