CS886 - Trust and Online Social Networks
Winter 2016

Prof. Robin Cohen

Time and location: (Monday mornings 930am-1120am; DC2568)

In this course, we will examine the context of online social networks from the perspective of artificial intelligence, including an exploration of the subfield of trust modeling in multiagent systems and its application to social networking environments.

Background in artificial intelligence is beneficial but not essential. In an early lecture, a brief introduction to AI will be provided.

Students will be exposed to a variety of current research in a very topical area of study. They will have the opportunity to gain skill in oral communication (through detailed feedback provided on their class presentations) and in concisely conveying detailed academic work. Students will also learn important analytic skills, executed in a limited timeframe, through the group exercise.

Workload and Logistics

The class size will be limited to 15.

Each student in the class will be required to complete:
a) a 15 minute oral presentation of a research paper from a predetermined list, once for the topic of Trust and once for the topic of Social Networks
b) a one-page point-form summary of the above research paper to be distributed as a handout to the class, for each of the presentations in a)
c) a 10 minute oral presentation of the student's final research project
d) a final research project (student's choice), relevant to the course topic
e) a group-oriented in-class exercise (with an individual component)

The final grade will be computed as follows:

Each presentation and handout	10 marks each (40 marks)
Final project presentation	10 marks
Group exercise	10 marks
Final project	40 marks (due April 4)

Schedule

This is a tentative outline for the course.

January 4 **...** Introduction to course (1 hour)
January 11 **...** Intro to AI; Intro to User Modeling, Trust Modeling
January 18 **...** First Half Presentations (5)
January 25 **...** First Half Presentations (5)
February 1 **...** First Half Presentations (5)
February 8 **...** Intro to social networking; Guest speaker
February 14 **...** Break Week
February 22 **...** Second Half Presentations (5)
February 29 **...** Second Half Presentations (5)
March 7 **...** Second Half Presentations (5)
March 14 **...** In-Class Group Exercise
March 21 **...** Project Presentations (10)
March 28 **...** Project Presentations (5); Wrap up of course
April 4 **...** (NO CLASS) Final Projects due
Hardcopy to be placed in my CS mailbox

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