
CSCE774 – Robotics Fall 2011 – Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR	Jason O’Kane jokane@cse.sc.edu Swearingen 3A58 803-777-1791 Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00–3:00pm These hours may be adjusted occasionally. Other times by appointment.
LECTURES	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:45pm 300 Main, B102
DESCRIPTION	<p>This class is an introduction to some of the current research in robotics. Specifically, we will focus on <i>planning algorithms</i>, that is, computational techniques that robots can use to plan their future actions. After completing this course, you should be able to understand, critique, design, and implement planning algorithms for robots.</p> <p>The format will mix lectures by the instructor and student-led discussions of important and interesting published research papers in the field.</p>
PREREQUISITES	CSCE 574 (Robotics)
TEXTBOOK	<p>The required textbook is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Steven M. LaValle, <i>Planning Algorithms</i>, Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, 2006.</p> <p>This text is available at the usual bookstores, and also for free online.</p>
WEB PAGE	<p>http://www.cse.sc.edu/~jokane/teaching/774</p> <p>All of the materials for this course will be posted to this site. The site also has an RSS feed for announcements, to which I encourage you to subscribe.</p>
POLICIES	<p><u>Cheating policy (short version):</u> Don’t.</p> <p><u>Cheating policy (long version):</u> Academic dishonesty reflects disrespect to your classmates, to your instructor, and to the University. Therefore, you are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result in a minimum penalty of a –50% score on the assignment. The result is that it is better to submit nothing at all than to cheat. Additional, more severe penalties may be levied for repeated or egregious violations. This policy includes improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, and any other form of academic misrepresentation. Details on the University cheating policy can be found in the section on “Academic Responsibility” in the Carolina Community Handbook.</p> <p>In the absence of instructions to the contrary, it <i>is</i> permissible to consult Internet resources to complete the assignments in this class, provided that you give</p>

adequate citations of every resource you consult. It is, however, *not* permissible to copy code or anything else directly from the web. Representing the work of others as your own is *never* permissible. When in doubt, ask first.

Collaboration: Assignments should be done independently. It is permissible to discuss the problems at a high level with your classmates, but you should work out the details and compose the complete answers independently. Submission of identical or substantially identical work will be considered strong evidence that cheating has occurred.

Late assignments: Most assignments for this course will be accepted up to two days late, subject to a 10% penalty for each day or fraction of a day. Paper reviews are due at the start of the corresponding class period, and will not be accepted late.

Exceptions will be considered only in extreme, documented circumstances. (Hint: Telling the instructor that you plan to miss class does not, in itself, constitute an extreme, documented circumstance.)

Cell phones: Please silence cell phones before coming to class. If your cell phone rings in class, the instructor reserves the right to answer it for you and take a message.

Attendance: You are expected to attend and participate in each class session. Attendance will be taken into account in the class participation portion of the final grade.

Computing platform: Your course project should include some implementation. You may use whatever computing environment and language you deem best suited for your project.

GRADING

Final grades will be determined based on a course project, approximately two homework assignments, one quiz, approximately three paper presentations, approximately 12 short paper reviews, and your class attendance and participation.

Project	50%
Homework	10%
Quiz	5%
Paper presentation	15%
Paper reviews	15%
Attendance and participation	5%

The course project is divided into six submissions. The weights of these submissions, as percentages of the final grade, are shown below.

Topic choice	1%
Related work	3%
Progress report	10%
Project Presentation	3%
Final report	28%
Exit interview	5%

The following table gives upper bounds on the thresholds for determining final

grades. The instructor reserves the right to adjust these thresholds downward, but promises not to adjust them upward.

A	$\geq 93\%$	C	$\geq 73\%$
B+	$\geq 90\%$	D+	$\geq 70\%$
B	$\geq 83\%$	D	$\geq 63\%$
C+	$\geq 80\%$	F	$< 63\%$

Keep in mind that I am grading your work, not you as a person.

Grades will be posted on the CSE moodle server. It is your responsibility to verify that grades are correctly recorded on this site.