



Prescription

This course examines the construction of intelligent agents - software programs that can act for themselves in some part of the human world. This course focuses on agents for improving web search and includes topics such as agents for information extraction from the web, web page clustering and classification, automatic query expansion and web page ranking.

Course learning objectives

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. achieve an understanding of the basic problems and basic principles in a variety of related research areas such as information retrieval, information extraction, clustering and classification and natural language processing. (Graduate Attributes: BE 3(a), 3(c), 3(d), 3(e); BSc COMP 1, 2, 3, 4)
2. achieve greater skill at reading, understanding, and giving presentations on papers from the research literature. (Graduate Attributes: BE 2(b); BSc COMP 2, 4)
3. achieve practical experience of building intelligent systems. (Graduate Attributes: BE 3(a); BSc COMP 1)

Course content

The course will examine a variety of case studies of intelligent agents, including (but not limited to) intelligent agents for extracting information from the web, clustering web pages and improving Web search. The course will consider the kinds of tasks that an intelligent agent could be useful for and also the underlying designs, techniques, and algorithms for implementing such agents.

Withdrawal from Course

Withdrawal dates and process:

<https://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/course-additions-withdrawals>

Lecturers

Xiaoying Gao (Coordinator)

Xiaoying.Gao@vuw.ac.nz

Teaching Format

During the trimester there will be two lectures per week. Friday lecture time is not used.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at:
www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Dates (trimester, teaching & break dates)

- Teaching: 05 March 2018 - 08 June 2018
- Break: 23 April 2018 - 27 April 2018
- Study period: 11 June 2018 - 14 June 2018
- Exam period: 15 June 2018 - 04 July 2018

Class Times and Room Numbers

05 March 2018 - 25 March 2018

- **Thursday** 09:00 - 09:50 – 120, Easterfield, Kelburn
- **Friday** 09:00 - 09:50 – 120, Easterfield, Kelburn

05 March 2018 - 01 April 2018

- **Tuesday** 09:00 - 09:50 – 120, Easterfield, Kelburn

02 April 2018 - 22 April 2018

- **Thursday** 09:00 - 09:50 – 120, Easterfield, Kelburn
- **Friday** 09:00 - 09:50 – 120, Easterfield, Kelburn

09 April 2018 - 22 April 2018

- **Tuesday** 09:00 - 09:50 – 120, Easterfield, Kelburn

30 April 2018 - 10 June 2018

- **Tuesday** 09:00 - 09:50 – 120, Easterfield, Kelburn
- **Thursday** 09:00 - 09:50 – 120, Easterfield, Kelburn
- **Friday** 09:00 - 09:50 – 120, Easterfield, Kelburn

Other Classes

No other classes.

Set Texts and Recommended Readings

Required

There are no required texts for this offering.

Mandatory Course Requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements for this course.

If you believe that exceptional circumstances may prevent you from meeting the mandatory course requirements, contact the Course Coordinator for advice as soon as possible.

Assessment

The assessment of the course will be based on several assignments and a final exam. All these are designed for our learning objectives outlined above and the marking is based on how well the students achieve these objectives. The assignments will consist of:

- Writing brief summaries, joining the discussions and doing the peer review.
- Giving a presentation on one paper or a self-chosen topic. The student can select a presentation time.
- Completing a small project. This project will be explained in lectures and it consists of three parts: writing a research proposal (word limit: 500, page limit: 1), giving a demonstration of the built system and writing a report (word limit: 1,500, page limit:3).

Summaries, discussions and peer review		CLO: 1,2,3	5%
Presentation		CLO: 1,2,3	5%
Project proposal	Week 4	CLO: 1,2,3	5%
Project demonstration	Week 8	CLO: 1,2,3	5%
Project report	Week 10	CLO: 1,2,3	15%
Final examination	exam period	CLO: 1,2,3	65%

Penalties

There is a 10% per day late penalty for the project report.

Extensions

Individual extensions will only be granted in exceptional personal circumstances, and should be negotiated with the course coordinator before the deadline whenever possible. Documentation (eg, medical certificate) may be required.

Submission & Return

All work is submitted through the ECS submission system, accessible through the course web pages. Marks and comments will be returned in the lectures.

Group Work

We encourage you to discuss the principles of the course and assignments with other students, to help and seek help with programming details, problems involving the lab machines. However, any work you hand in must be your own work.

Workload

In order to maintain satisfactory progress in COMP 423, you should plan to spend an average of 10 hours per week on this paper. A plausible and approximate breakdown for these hours would be:

- Lectures: 2
- Readings: 4
- Assignments: 4

Teaching Plan

See: https://ecs.victoria.ac.nz/Courses/COMP423_2018T1/LectureSchedule

Communication of Additional Information

All online material for this course can be accessed at https://ecs.victoria.ac.nz/Courses/COMP423_2018T1/

Links to General Course Information

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism>
- Academic Progress: <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress> (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates>
- Grades: <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades>
- Special passes: Refer to the Assessment Handbook, at <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>
- Statutes and policies, e.g. Student Conduct Statute: <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy>
- Student support: <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support>
- Students with disabilities: https://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability/
- Student Charter: <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter>
- Terms and Conditions: <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract>
- Turnitin: <http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin>
- University structure: <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure>
- VUWSA: <http://www.vuwsa.org.nz>

Offering CRN: [4962](#)

Points: 15

Prerequisites: COMP 307, plus one further course from COMP 301-399, ECEN 301-399, NWEN 301-399, or SWEN 301-399

Duration: 05 March 2018 - 04 July 2018

Starts: Trimester 1

Campus: Kelburn