Course information

- **Instructor:** Dr. Mengjun Hu

- **Email:** Mengjun.Hu@uregina.ca

- **Lecture hours and locations:**
  
  Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10:00am - 11:15am via Zoom meetings (September 2, 2020 - December 8, 2020)

  The Zoom link will be posted to UR Courses. When joining the Zoom meeting, you should use your real name, including both first and last names.

- **Office hours:** By appointment only.

Lecture delivery

The lectures will be delivered remotely and asynchronously. This means the lecture videos will be recorded and uploaded to UR Courses at least one day before lecture time. The lecture time will be Q&A sessions. Questions about the content presented in the corresponding videos will be given preference. Once such questions are done, you may ask other questions regarding this course. Attending Q&A sessions held during lecture time is not mandatory. But you are expected to be available during scheduled lecture time, especially when other course activities are scheduled. Attendance will not be checked for any lecture, but attendance and certain participation during Q&A sessions may be considered regarding instructor discretion (see more details in Grading and evaluations).

Topics

Copied from CS website: “This class covers both basic and advanced issues of information retrieval. The topics include: Web documents, Web database systems, indexing theory, document representation, retrieval techniques, mathematical models, web-based information systems.”

A list of tentative topics includes:

- Basic concepts of information retrieval systems
- Indexing theory
- Boolean retrieval model
- Vector space model
- Probability distribution model
- Probabilistic models
- System evaluation
- Relevance feedback
Grading and evaluations

- Assignments\(^1\) (5) 35%
- Quizzes\(^2\) (3) 45%
- Final exam\(^2\) 20%
- Instructor discretion ±5%

1 All assignments should be submitted through UR Courses. No late assignment is accepted. (Late for a couple of minutes is fine.) There is no penalty policy for late submissions which are simply not accepted. Add proper references to avoid academic plagiarism whenever appropriate.

2 The quizzes will be held through UR Courses and they will be open book. Please be aware that consulting resources are permitted for open-book exams, but not copying. Copying is an academic misconduct in any form of exams. You must complete the quizzes by yourself only. Any academic misconduct will be reported. Please note that NO makeup will be provided for any quiz due to any personal reason (including loss of power and internet issues). Makeups will only be considered in emergency situations that affect most students, such as city-wide power outage. The scheduled time is as follows:
  - Quiz 1: October 1, 2020 (first class in Oct).
  - Quiz 2: November 3, 2020 (first class in Nov).
  - Quiz 3: December 1, 2020 (first class in Dec).

The coverage for each quiz will be announced later. I’ll be available through Zoom during quiz time.

3 The final examination will be held through UR Courses on December 10, 2020 starting from 9:00am (as scheduled). The final examination may be shortened which means it may end before 12:00pm. The final examination will be open book.

4 Instructor discretion will only be used to adjust marks so that the marks truthfully (as much as possible) reflect how much the students have shown to the instructor that they have learned. Thus, attendance and participation during lecture time (e.g., asking questions related to lecture content) may be considered in giving out instructor discretion. This doesn’t mean that attendance and participation will necessarily lead to instructor discretion awarded. The instructor discretion will not be used for simply making a student pass the course.

Textbook

C.J. van Rijsbergen, Information Retrieval

http://openlib.org/home/krichel/courses/lis618/readings/rijsbergen79_infor_retriev.pdf
http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/Keith/Preface.html

A list of additional papers will be posted on UR Courses.

Additional reference (optional)


Further information

- Your UoR Webmail account is the only official email account for communications regarding this course. You should always use your UoR Webmail account to send emails to the instructor at Mengjun.Hu@uregina.ca, or use Course Email on UR Courses. Otherwise, it will be your responsibility if the emails are not successfully delivered to the instructor’s inbox (e.g. identified as junk mails). No excuse will be accepted.

- No slide will be used.

- Foreseen situations (e.g. sickness) that may affect quizzes and final should be reported to the instructor before the quizzes and final. Unforeseen situations (e.g. loss of power or internet on the days of quizzes or final) should be reported to the instructor within the same day of the quizzes or final (cutoff time at 23:59pm of the day). Otherwise, you will get NP mark for the missed quizzes or final, which will be used as 0 mark when calculating your final grade. No excuse will be accepted.
• UofR academic misconduct policies:

• Complaint about marking of assignments and quizzes should be made within 5 business days after the marks are posted (excluding the post date).