



## **CSCI, 574, 01B=W, Machine Learning**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Derek Harter, Ph.D.  
Office Location: Science 355  
Office Hours: T, W, Th 2:00p – 4:00p (please e-mail for appointment)  
University Email Address: Derek.Harter@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: e-mail

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### **Required:**

Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras and Tensorflow: Concepts, Tools, and Techniques to Build Intelligent Systems (3ed) by Aurelien Geron, O'Reilly Media, 2023

#### **Recommended:**

Machine Learning: An Algorithmic Perspective. By Marsland, CRC Press, 2009.

How to Think Like a Computer Scientist: Learning with Python 2ed by Jeffrey Elkner, Allen B. Downey and Chris Meyers (Open Book Project)  
<http://www.greenteapress.com/thinkpython/>

Introduction to Machine Learning with Python by Andreas C. Muller and Sarah Guido, O'Reilly Media, 2016, ISBN: 1449369413

Machine Learning: A Probabilistic Perspective by Kevin P. Murphy, MIT Press, ISBN: 0262018020

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Data Science Job: How to become a Data Scientist by Przemek Chojecki, ISBN: 979-8606148011

## **Course Description**

In this semester's machine learning course, we will look at classic unsupervised and supervised learning methods, used in the field to classify data, cluster it and find optimizations. This will include looking at k-means and hierarchical clustering, self-organizing maps, linear regression, decision trees, optimization techniques such as genetic algorithms, etc. We will cover ways of getting hold of interesting datasets, ideas on how to collect data from users, and many different ways to analyze and understand the data once you've found it. Prerequisites: CSci 515. (3 credit hours)

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. (SLO574.1) Develop familiarity with high-level Python scripting language.
2. (SLO574.2) Learn basics of fundamental machine learning techniques, such as regression, clustering, k-nearest neighbor, kernel methods, etc.
3. (SLO574.3) Learn basic distinction between supervised and unsupervised machine learning methods.
4. (SLO574.4) Learn basic machine learning training and testing techniques, including cross validation and data optimization.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students should be proficient in a high level programming language, like C/C++ and have knowledge of undergraduate level statistics and linear algebra mathematics.

### **Instructional Methods**

All materials, assignments and tests will be conducted through the D2L MyLeo Online learning system.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

To plan a minimum of three hours of outside preparation for each hour of class is a safe time allocation for successfully completing the course.

## **GRADING**

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Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

### **Assessments**

Exams (2 Midterm and Final): 40% (20% each)

Machine Learning Python Programming Assignments (approx. 6): 48% (8% each)

Machine Learning Final Project: 12%

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These

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methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

Please use e-mail and through the MyLeoOnline course to ask questions and for help, and to set up additional appointments if needed. We may use some of the MyLeoOnline virtual classroom tools this semester for online class feedback sessions.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

There will be no make up or extra credit for late assignments. You must turn in all assignments by the require due date, or notify the instructor with a valid reason for missing an assignment.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures/

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other

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things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Unit	Topic / Activity	Read	Assignment
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Introduction, Scientific Python, Scikit-Learn</b>		
1	Course Introduction, Python, Visualization	Think Python	
2	Scientific Python: Numpy, Pandas, Scipy	Ch 1	01: Python
3	Scikit-Learn: Python Machine Learning Framework	Ch 2	
<b>Part 2</b>	<b>ML Mechanisms for Supervised Classification and Regression</b>		
4	Machine Learning Classification Problems	Ch 3	02: Classification
5	Regression Problems and Linear Regression	Ch 4a	
6	Logistic Regression	Ch 4b	03: Linear and Logistic Regression
T1	Test 01: Midterm		Midterm Exam
<b>Part 3</b>	<b>Fundamental ML Methods</b>		
7	k-nearest neighbors (kNN) and Naive Bayes		
8	Support Vector Machine (SVM)	Ch 5	04: SVM
9	Decision Trees	Ch 6	
10	Ensemble Learning	Ch 7	05: Trees and Ensembles
<b>Part 4</b>	<b>Unsupervised Learning</b>		
11	Dimensionality Reduction	Ch 8	
12	Unsupervised Learning	Ch 9	06: PCA and UL
13	Practical Advice on Applying Machine Learning		
T2	Test 02: Final Exam		Final Exam
FP	Machine Learning Final Project		Project

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