

CS4386: AI GAME PROGRAMMING

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

AI Game Programming

Subject Code

CS - Computer Science

Course Number

4386

Academic Unit

Computer Science (CS)

College/School

College of Computing (CC)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

CS2310 Computer Programming or
CS2311 Computer Programming or
CS2312 Problem Solving and Programming or
CS2313 Computer Programming or
CS2360 Java Programming or equivalent

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This aim of this course is to provide in-depth coverage of Game AI, which is a collection of AI techniques relevant to computer games, and its applications to modern computer game programming. The main objective is to ensure students have a firm and clear understanding of the common AI techniques that are applicable to computer game development. In particular, a main emphasis of this course is to equip students with hands-on practical on Game AI when students design and develop advanced computer games.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify, explore and describe the key technologies and development environments of game programming.	15	x		
2	Demonstrate working knowledge of common Game AI.	20		x	
3	Apply and implement different Game AI in computer games.	25		x	
4	Evaluate different Game AI and justify their applications under different scenarios.	25		x	
5	Design comprehensive and robust computer games with sophisticated Game AI.	15			x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Students will learn about the concept and general knowledge of Game AI and game programming.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
			3 hours per week

2	Tutorial	Students will recall and apply the taught materials to work on designed cases/questions. Open-ended questions will be presented that encourage students to exercise critical thinking on a designed problem and pursue its solution. Students will have hand-on practices on Game AI and game programming to deepen their understanding on the related subjects.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	8 hours per semester
3	Assignment	Students will develop a computer game. They will be encouraged to identify the Game AI used in computer games and design their own game application.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	After class

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignment	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	35	Students can only use GenAI for editing the English of the submitted document, debugging code, or brainstorming. GenAI cannot be used for other aspects, e.g., directly copying the AI-generated result and submitting it as the student's own work, which will be considered as academic dishonesty and students may face severe penalty. Students must understand their submitted work and be able to explain it. GenAI cannot be used as the only source for researching information. Students must verify the accuracy of information from authentic sources and demonstrate their understanding.	Yes
2	Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	15	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

30

Additional Information for ATs

For a student to pass the course, at least 30% of the maximum mark for the examination must be obtained.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Assignment

Criterion

1.1 ABILITY to discover the technologies/approaches in Game AI

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Assignment

Criterion

1.2 ABILITY to provide quality evaluation on Game AI

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Programming Assignment

Criterion

2.1 ABILITY to demonstrate working knowledge of Game AI

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Programming Assignment

Criterion

2.2 ABILITY to implement appropriate Game AI and provide justification on their choice

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Programming Assignment

Criterion

2.3 ABILITY to write comprehensive and robust code

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Programming Assignment

Criterion

2.4 ABILITY to design game with high quality Game AI

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Quiz/Exam

Criterion

3.1 ABILITY to describe and identify the characteristics and application of various Game AI

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Quiz/Exam

Criterion

3.2 ABILITY to demonstrate working knowledge of common Game AI

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Quiz/Exam

Criterion

3.3 ABILITY to provide quality evaluation on various Game AI

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Board Games, Decision Making, Learning, Movement, Pathfinding, Tactical AI, Procedural Content Generation.

Syllabus

- Board Games
Game Tree. Minimax, Negamax, Alpha-Beta Pruning, Transposition Table, Zobrist Hashing, Variable Depth Approaches, Monte Carlo Tree Search.
- Decision Making
Decision Tree, Finite State Machine, Hierarchical State Machine, Behavior Tree, Fuzzy Logic, Goal-Oriented Behavior
- Learning
Action Prediction, N-grams, Naïve Bayes Classifier, Decision Tree Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Artificial Neural Network

- Movement
Kinematic Movement Algorithms, Steering Behaviors, Predicting Physics, Jumping, Coordinated Movement
- Pathfinding
Dijkstra, A*, Hierarchical Pathfinding, Continuous Time Pathfinding
- Tactical AI
Waypoint Tactics, Tactical Analyses, Influence Map, Tactical Pathfinding
- Procedural Content Generation
Pseudorandom Numbers, Lindenmayer Systems, Landscape Generation, Dungeons and Maze Generation, Shape Grammars

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Ian Millington (2019). Artificial Intelligence for Games (Third Edition), CRC Press. (ISBN-13: 978-1-138-48397-2)

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Georgios N. Yannakakis and Julian Togelius (2018). Artificial Intelligence and Games, Springer. (ISBN-13: 978-3-319-63519-4)