

DSC3006: FUNDAMENTALS OF MACHINE LEARNING I

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Fundamentals of Machine Learning I

Subject Code

DSC - Data Science

Course Number

3006

Academic Unit

Data Science (DS)

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

(MA1503 Linear Algebra with Applications or MA2503 Linear Algebra)
and
(MA2506 Probability and Statistics or MA2510 Probability and Statistics)

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SDSC3006 Fundamentals of Machine Learning I

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This introduction course provides students with an extensive exposure to the fundamental elements of machine learning. This course will cover the classic statistical learning and the modern machine learning methods, with the focus on supervised learning. Topics cover the elementary concepts and general principles, classification, regularization, linear model, model selection, neural network models.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain clearly fundamental principles and methods of machine learning	20	x		
2	Classify various learning tasks and select appropriate machine learning methods	20	x	x	
3	Apply machine learning techniques and algorithms to datasets and assess the performance by error analysis	30	x	x	x
4	Solve practical problems using machine learning methods	30	x	x	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	In lectures, students will learn theories and concepts on machine learning and various machine learning methods.	1, 2, 3, 4	3 hours/week
2	Laboratory	In labs, students will learn software of machine learning and apply appropriate algorithms to real-world datasets.	2, 3	1 hour/week

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Homework assignments	3, 4	30	These are skills based assessment to enable students to demonstrate the basic concepts, methods and algorithms of machine learning, and applications of learning algorithms in some applications.	Yes
2	Project	1, 2, 3, 4	20	The assignment provides students chances to demonstrate their achievements on machine learning methods learned in this course.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

30

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

30

Additional Information for ATs

Note: To pass the course, apart from obtaining a minimum of 40% in the overall mark, a student must also obtain a minimum mark of 30% in both continuous assessment and examination components.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Homework assignments

Criterion

Ability to learn the basic concepts and apply methods and algorithms of machine learning.

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

Project

Criterion

Ability to apply methods and algorithms of machine learning to solve practical problems and present results.

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

Examination

Criterion

Ability to solve learning tasks using machine learning methods.

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

- Review of probability and statistics
- Fundamental concepts of machine learning: supervised/unsupervised learning, function approximation, bias-variance trade-off, training/testing errors, cross validation
- Classical classification: k-NN, LDA and QDA, Logistic regression, Naive Bayesian classifier
- Regularization methods: ridge regression, Lasso regression
- Support vector machine: maximal margin, separating hyperplane, soft margin
- Trees and ensemble methods: CART, random forest, bagging, boosting
- Unsupervised learning: PCA, K-means clustering, hierarchical clustering

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Lecture slides and other related material
2	An Introduction to Statistical Learning, by James, Witten, Hastie, Tibshirani, Springer 2013

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning, by Christopher M. Bishop. Springer, 2006
2	The “Machine Learning” course of Andrew Ng at the website: https://www.coursera.org/learn/machine-learning
3	Tom Mitchell. “Machine Learning” . McGraw-Hill, 1997
4	Learning Theory: An Approximation Theory Viewpoint, by Cucker and Zhou, Cambridge University Press, 2007.