

DSC4018: AI IN SYSTEMATIC TRADING

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

AI in Systematic Trading

Subject Code

DSC - Data Science

Course Number

4018

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

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SDSC4018 AI in Systematic Trading

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course offers students the review of financial systems as well as machine learning, artificial intelligence, and optimization techniques utilized in nowadays financial fields. Students will obtain technical knowledge in collecting a

variety of financial data, developing trading algorithms, and optimizing overall portfolio performance. The goal of this course is to help student establish a clear map of frameworks for developing the artificial intelligence serving financial systems.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe important concepts in financial systems.	10	x		
2	Demonstrate knowledge of methods, algorithms, and techniques in machine learning, artificial intelligence, and optimization utilized in modern financial systems.	30	x		
3	Discuss the framework of integrating knowledge in machine learning, artificial intelligence, and optimization to construct intelligence for financial systems.	30	x	x	
4	Develop artificial intelligence tools to generate trading strategies, manage financial risk, optimize investment portfolios, and design and value financial products	30	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	Lectures and in-class discussions	Students will engage in formal lectures, in-class exercises, in-class Q&A and discussions will be used to implement CILOs 1-4.	1, 2, 3, 4	39 hours/semester
2	Tutorials	Students will participate in a term project, in which they will apply the financial tools discussed in the course to practical problems in financial engineering.	2, 3, 4	In or after class

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignments	1, 2, 3	10	-	Yes
2	Project	2, 3, 4	30	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

40

Examination (%)

60

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**

Assignments

Criterion

Submitted written work

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

For all 4 CILOs, strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good (B+, B, B-)

For at least 3 out of 4 CILOs, evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

For at least 3 out of the 4 CILOs, evidence that student is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material

Marginal (D)

For at least 3 out of the 4 CILOs, sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

Project

Criterion

Project presentation

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

For all 4 CILOs, strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good (B+, B, B-)

For at least 3 out of 4 CILOs, evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

For at least 3 out of the 4 CILOs, evidence that student is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material

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Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

Submitted written work

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

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Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Review of financial systems;
Trading systems
Financial data collection and processing
Machine learning in developing trading algorithms
Artificial intelligence in supervising financial systems
Portfolio theory
Optimization methods in trading and investment
Robo-Advisors.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Lecture notes and slides provided by the instructor

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Essentials of Investments, Z. Bodie, A. Kane and A. Marcus, 9th Edition, McGraw-Hill 2013
2	Artificial Intelligence; A Modern Approach, S. J. Russel and P. Norvig, 3rd Edition, Prentice Hall, 2009
3	Investment Science, D. G. Luenberger, Oxford University Press.
4	Financial Markets and Institutions, Frederic S. Mishkin and Stanley G. Eakins, 8th Edition, Pearson International, Prentice Hall, 2015