

CS3346A/CS3121A/CS9146A Course Outline

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Fall 2025

1. Course Information

Course Information

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (CS3346A), Fall 2025, the lectures will be in person, Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm [REDACTED] and Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm.

The course is an introduction to Artificial Intelligence. We will cover the fundamentals used in the construction of intelligent agents, including heuristic search for problem solving, computer games, probabilistic reasoning, Bayesian networks, machine learning including neural networks, ChatGPT (briefly if time allows), and so on.

List of Prerequisites

Either (Computer Science 2210A/B and Computer Science 2211A/B) or (Software Engineering 2203A/B, Software Engineering 2205A/B and Software Engineering 2250A/B); Computer Science 2209A/B, or registration in a BESC program in Computer Engineering, Mechatronic Systems Engineering, or Software Engineering.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from the Department of Computer Science to enroll in it, you may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on your academic record. This decision may not be appealed.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Yalda Mohsenzadeh (Course Coordinator)	ymohsenz@uwo.ca			Tuesdays 3:30 – 4:30 PM
TBD				To be announced on Brightspace

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors. The emails will be responded Monday through Friday (8 AM to 5PM), usually within 48 hours. If a question is too complex to be addressed by email, students will be asked to attend office hours.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Key Sessional Dates:

Classes begin: September 4, 2025

Fall Reading Week: November 3 – 9, 2025

Classes end: December 9, 2025

Exam period: December 11 – 22, 2025

4. Course Materials

Recommended Textbook: Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach (3rd or 4th Ed), by Stuart J. Russell and Peter Norvig.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

For undergrad students:

Three Assignments worth 5% each.

Group Project 35%

Final exam 50% (covering the whole term)

For graduate students:

Three Assignments worth 5% each.

Group Project Report 30%

Group Project Presentation 5%

Final exam 50% (covering the whole term)

For the final exams, students can bring a one-page 8x11 “cheat sheet” (double-sided, written or printed). The exam will be closed book, with no permitted access to any electronic devices. The exam is to be completed individually, with no assistance from others.

All assignments are due by 11:55 pm of the due date, submitted via OWL. The due dates of the three assignments are: 10/7, 11/11, and 12/2 Late Assignment Policy of assignments: Each day (24 hours) is 10% off (e.g., if late for 2 days, 20% off), until 10 days have passed and the assignment is given a grade of 0.

Group Project:

The project is to be completed in groups of two-three graduate students or two-four undergrad students. Students who are working for their research on problems that are amenable to machine learning solutions are strongly encouraged to formulate a project related to their work. Students who do not have such problems should contact the instructor to discuss possible projects.

Undergraduate students will be required to write a project report. Graduate students will be required to write a project report, and to do a final project presentation (10 minutes per team). The presentations will be scheduled in the last week of class, during of the class time.

The project will be due on Dec 9th, 2025.

Students must attend and be an **active participant** in the group project which entails all of the following:

- a. Obtain a **grade of 40% or over** on your team’s peer evaluation of your performance in your team project.
- b. Contribute in some way to each milestone in the group project (as shown by the edit, commit, and issue history on GitLab).
- c. Regularly attending **both your team’s weekly meetings**. You must **attend at least half of the meetings** to pass the course.

If you fail to satisfy any of these criteria, your maximum final grade for this course will be **capped at 45%.**

Accommodated Evaluations

Generally, no extensions to assignments will be given (except for lengthy illness, or other compassionate grounds). In those cases, the course instructor can grant the extension. The instructor may also ask you to take supporting documentation to the office of the Dean of your faculty, who will contact the instructor. If for any reason the assignment schedule given below cannot be adhered to, the assignment marks will be prorated.

Use of Generative AI Tools

The use of generative AI tools is prohibited in this course.

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs*, posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All Academic Consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (Defined by policy)
- Group project

When a student mistakenly submits their one allowed Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** for the assessments listed above, the request cannot be recalled and reapplied. This privilege is forfeited.

Evaluation Scheme for Missed Assessments

When a student misses the Final Exam and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

When a student misses one of the assignments and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will receive a maximum of 48 hours extension on the deadline.

Essential Learning Requirements

Even when Academic Considerations are granted for missed coursework, the following are deemed essential to earn a passing grade.

In order to do pass the course,

- Undergraduate students must obtain at least 50% score in this course. They must do the final project and write the final exam, and they must at least obtain a minimum of 50% in each.
- Graduate students must obtain at least 60% score in this course. They must present their project and write the project report and final exam, and they must at least obtain a minimum of 50% in each.

6. Additional Statements

6.1 Religious Accommodation

When conflicts arise with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible, but not later than two weeks prior to the writing of the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca>

6.2 Academic Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

6.3 General Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

Use of @uwo.ca email: In accordance with policy, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university email address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that emails received from the University at their official university address are attended to in a timely manner.

Requests for Relief (formally known as “appeals”)

Policy on Request for Relief from Academic Decision:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/requests_for_relief_from_academic_decisions.pdf

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Graduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/graduate_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

6.4 Scholastic Offences

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Graduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/graduate_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Use of Electronic Devices During Assessments

In courses offered by the Faculty of Science, the possession of unauthorized electronic devices during any in-person assessment (such as tests, midterms, and final examinations) is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, and wireless earbuds or headphones.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise in advance by the instructor, the presence of any such device at your desk, on your person, or within reach during an assessment will be treated as a *scholastic offence*, even if the device is not in use.

Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is your responsibility to review and comply with these expectations.

Use of Generative AI Tools

Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is **not permitted** in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a **scholastic offence**.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume that use is prohibited. It is your responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

6.5 Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, requests for relief, exam conflicts, and many other academic-related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

lease contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. If you have any questions regarding accommodations, you may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.