

Class Introduction

Social Computing

Social Computing Course

- **Location and Time**
 - HU 134 T-Th 10:15-11:35 am
- **Instructor:**
 - Prof. Tomek Strzalkowski
- **Class Website**
 - <http://www.ils.albany.edu/teaching/social-computing>
- **Class wiki**
 - <http://csi660soco.pbworks.com/w/page/15032142/FrontPage>

Social Computing Course

- **Contact Information**
 - tomek@albany.edu
- **Assistant:** Gregorios Katsios
 - gkatsios@albany.edu

Contact

- **Office Hours: Social Science**
 - TS: 12 noon- 2 pm Tuesdays (SS-262)
 - GK: TBD (SS-261)
 - By appointment only
- Preferred contact method: Email
- Or in person during office hours
- If you need to meet at any other time, please make an appointment via email first!

What is it all about?

- *Can a computer figure out who is a leader of a group of people from their conversation?*
- *Can a computer detect when a person has changed their mind about something even when they would not openly admit it?*
- *What can a computer find out about the real person behind an avatar their in an online game?*
- *Can we build an artificial agent that would hold its own in an online conversation?*
- *Can an artificial agent influence a person's behavior?*

What will you learn?

- Introduction to the field of social computing
- Become familiar with the state-of-the-art research in big data and social computing
- Achieve a comfortable level of thinking about concepts like human behavior and attitudes and modeling them in computational algorithms

Why is it relevant now?

- Big data and Data Science are the buzz words of today
- And so are Deep Learning and Deep AI
- But, need to have a careful approach towards data
- And also towards what machines actually can do

Reading Materials

- No textbook
- No exams

- Lecture slides
- Assigned readings
 - Papers that touch upon and expand on the topics covered in lectures

Course Grading Policy

- 20% Reading responses
- 20% Presentation and discussion lead
- 20% Class participation
- 30% Homeworks
- 10% In-class mini-quizzes

Reading Responses (20%)

- By 11:59 pm on Thursday, students will be required to send reading responses to the instructor for the paper assigned in the prior week.
- A template for filling out response will be provided
- Responses will be evaluated on the quality of insights, but are informal and will not be evaluated for grammar or formal writing style.

Presentation/Discussion Lead (20%)

- Each student will be assigned to one of the readings after the first day of class.
- That student will prepare slides on the reading and lead an in-class discussion on the reading assignment.
- Slides need to be sent to TA and instructor by 11:59 pm on Monday before class

Presentation/Discussion Lead (20%)

- For the week you present and lead a discussion, you do not need to complete a reading response.
- The presentation should be organized into the sections.

Presentation content

- What is the main problem or issue that the authors are addressing?
- Provide an overview of the authors' approach/argument and conclusions.
 - This is the core content
- What are the main strengths and/or weaknesses of the approach?
- Provide a list of questions regarding the paper for discussion during class.

Here is a possible structure

- Motivation & Data
- Problem definition/scope
- Previous efforts
- Authors' approach
- Results as reported
- Contribution vs. previous efforts
- Questions for discussion

Class Participation (20%)

- Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of student involvement during discussions and in lectures
- Being absent from class more than 2 times without explanation will result in loss of class participation grade

Homeworks (30%)

- Class project structured as three homework assignments
- Approximately 1 month to complete each assignment
- Will require programming
 - Can choose language, Java or Python preferred
- Each subsequent homework builds upon previous one

Homeworks (30%)

- Sample data and code for each assignment will be provided

Quizzes (10%)

- Five mini-quizzes spread through the semester
- Check course schedule for exact dates
- Multiple choice questions
- To be answered in class
- May require some basic calculation
- 20-30 minutes in duration

Late Submission Policy

- **Submissions will not be accepted late, no exceptions.**
- Partial credit will be given for submissions that are turned in on time, but incomplete; so turn in whatever you have by the deadline.

Academic Integrity

- **Cheating/copying/plagiarism of any kind will result in loss of grade for all parties involved.**

Course schedule

- <http://ils.albany.edu/teaching/social-computing/schedule-and-topics/>

Assigned Reading: Paper 1

CRITICAL QUESTIONS FOR BIG DATA By danah boyd & Kate Crawford

- Responses due 11:59 pm, January 31st, 2019
- Slides due 11:59 pm, February 4th, 2019

Signing up for presentation slots

- Send email to: tomek@albany.edu
- Select exactly 3 dates from list of presentation dates
- Order them in your order of preference
- First-come first-served basis