

9-2002

CS 495.04: Evolutionary Computation and Artificial Life

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Recommended Citation

Wright, Alden H., "CS 495.04: Evolutionary Computation and Artificial Life" (2002). *Syllabi*. 2693.
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CS 495 Evolutionary Computation and Artificial Life

Instructor: Alden Wright, 407 Social Science, 406 243-4790, wright@cs.umt.edu

Meeting times and places: Wednesdays, 11:30 to 12:00 SS 402 and Thursdays, 12:40 to 2:00 SS 344.

Office hours: (tentative) Monday and Friday 2:10-3:00, Tuesday, Thursday 3:10-4:00.

(Since I have many meetings, it would be helpful if you could make an appointment even if you want to see me during my office hours.) In general, I will not be available in the mornings, but will be around afternoons.

Textbook: Modern Heuristics, by Zbigniew Michalewicz and David B. Fogel (Springer)

Exams: October 3, November 12, plus the final.

Assignments: You will do 6 assignments. These may be presentations, reports, problem sets, computer programs, or experiments. There will be opportunity to choose what kind of work you do for these assignments. In some cases, an assignment might be a progress report on a larger project.

Grading: 50% for exams and 50% for assignments. The conversion of number grades to letter grades will be: 70-80: C; 80-90: B; 90-100: A. I may change to a more liberal conversion scale if the grades from this scale are too low. Students who want to count this towards a CS program should not sign up for pass-fail.

Incompletes and late drops: I will strictly follow University policy. In for me to consider an incomplete or late drop, you will have to submit documentation (such as a note from a doctor) to verify your reason for the incomplete or late drop.

Collaboration: Collaboration on assignments is OK if you acknowledge and describe the collaboration when you turn in the assignment. You are responsible for writing/typing your own assignments, and you are responsible for understanding what you turn in. Collaboration on exams is not acceptable.

The first 2 weeks of class: I will be gone to research conferences in Spain from Sept. 2 to Sept. 12. Mike O'Conner will take over the class when I am gone. I expect to be able to access e-mail while in Spain. However, because of the time difference and my conference activities, it will probably take me at least 24 hours to reply to e-mail. I am hoping that we can arrange a class meeting on Friday, Sept. 13. I am free all day (except that I will undoubtedly be jet-lagged). Mike will try to arrange something. If so, this will replace at least the class meeting of Sept. 12 and possibly also of Sept. 10, and your assignment 1 presentations will be done at this meeting.