

Artificial Intelligence Research Methodologies

Class Representative Review 2000-01

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Overview

The module went generally well.

However, some students have expressed concerns about the module being too time consuming, especially the undergraduates for which the module was compulsory. In their case, it seems that AIRM (counts for 1 course) had more workload than their dissertation (which counts for 2 courses) and it seemed to interfere with their project (which counts for 4 courses).

Lectures

The lectures by Professor Bundy were one of the highlights of the module, reflected in the high attendance. They were generally of useful content and well presented. The 3 guest lecturers also provided useful and enjoyable lectures.

Tutorials

The tutorials were mostly successful, with the tutorial exercises being generally well accepted by the students.

Some students did feel somewhat lost about the choice of topics for the literature survey and presentation, as well as the scope of these, and not always the tutors successfully clarified them in this respect.

Paper reviews

The paper reviews generated some confusion amongst the students, namely what was being examined: the students' ability to review a paper or their general knowledge/background on the paper's field. Some expressed unhappiness for apparently being marked down due to lack of such background knowledge.

Presentations

The presentations were well accepted, even though there was some initial confusion about the relation presentation/literature survey (whether both exercises had to cover a common topic).

Still, most students seemed to enjoy this exercise, reflected in the general high quality presentations. The Q&A period at the end of each presentation also provided very interesting discussion sessions.

Literature survey

The literature survey, while being a very interesting piece of coursework, proved less popular with the undergraduate students, mainly due to its high workload interfering with other modules that carry higher weight on their courses.

MSc and PhD students reported no such concerns. In the case of some MSc students, the survey was *used* as initial background research into their future MSc projects.

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