Adaptive Web Systems
INFSCI 2480

Syllabus
Logistics MS

- Attendance
- Learning the topic
  - Topic readings and discussions
  - Playing a moderator
  - Research paper presentation
  - Research seminar
- Presentation project
- Programming project
- Final Project
Readings and Discussions: The Process

- There is assigned reading for each class on the presented topics
- To process and better understand each topic we will run a forum-based discussion
- Two students each week will play the role of moderators and challengers
- Two students will read alternative research papers on the last class topics
- At the start of each class, we will have 2 research paper presentations and a discussion of past class topics
Assigned Readings

- Each week, we will assign 1-2 chapters from the Adaptive Web Book or similar review-style papers [http://www.springerlink.com/content/x646782t122p/#section=372718&page=1](http://www.springerlink.com/content/x646782t122p/#section=372718&page=1)
- Read at least ONE of the assigned sources
- You do not need to comprehend all in details, but should have a good command of the presented topic
  - Your final project report should have strong connections to the chapters you read. It is a part of your grade.
- Focus on unclear, non-evident, hard to understand issues that require discussions
Response to Assigned Readings

• To better comprehend the topic, we will hold a discussion in the course forum
• Each student is expected to provide at least two expanded contributions
  • Not just 1-2 lines
  • Either a new issue or an expanded comment to an existing issue
• Which issues?
  • Hard to understand, questionable, surprising
• Once per semester you will play a role or a topic moderator
  • Moderator should read a chapter in detail, preferably BEFORE the lecture
  • Main goal to comment and discuss posts, but also to rise missed important issues
  • A good number (20) or comments from a moderator are expected. No need to be extensive
Research Reading

- Choose a course topic
  - 1-2 students per topic only, might not get your top choice!
  - Subjects have to be selected by the next lecture, TA will manage the list
- Find one paper on this topic (CiteULike is a good source)
- Prepare summary and PPT presentation
- Present in class (5 min!)
  - At the beginning of the class following this topic
Research Seminars

• Use CoMeT system for Research Seminar Sharing:
  • http://halley.exp.sis.pitt.edu/comet/
• Monitor what is presented there, track interesting events
• Attend two relevant research seminars on the adaptive systems topic over the semester, send a summary to instructor, if approved, post a summary to the discussion group
• There are many interesting seminars. some not shown in CoMeT – look around!
• Post missing seminars, get extra credit
• CoMeT could be a source for final projects
Assignments & Final Project

Assignments

“About You” on CourseWeb

Programming assignment practicing adaptive IS technologies
Learning Journal

Reflect

- Maintain a blog - your learning journal
- Each week post a reflection on your “own” paper, other readings, attended seminars, topics covered last week, your thoughts, ideas, connections
- At least two paragraphs to be posted by the next class on your blog
- The blog can be private if you wish, but the instructors should be able to see it for grading. Classmates could be also added if possible.
Play a business analyst; work in a group of 3-5 students

Explore
- Find a working adaptive system – industrial or research-level OR Explore a group of similar systems

Analyze
- Distill main ideas, guess (or read) which algorithms and approaches are being used, identify design issues, key problems

Compare
- Show how systems in the same class differ from each other by the distilled key features

Present
- Prepare a structured PowerPoint presentation, deliver in class. Go deep, try to deliver the stuff that goes beyond the surface features
List of Topics

• Movie recommenders (i.e., MovieLens)
• Music recommenders (i.e., last.fm)
• Web page recommendation (i.e., StumbleUpon)
• Personalized shopping (I.e., Amazon)
• Event recommenders (CoMeT, Eventur..)
• People recommendation (i.e., LinkedIn)
• <Your Topic May Be Here>
• Pick up your preferred topic ASAP!
A possible option for a senior PhD student: Play a teacher for 1/2 a class!

Read
- Read 3-5 overview-rich papers on the topic, prepare summaries and post to your learning journal

Analyze
- Distill main topics, issues, problems, developments

Present
- Prepare a structured PowerPoint presentation, deliver in class

Reflect
- Edit a section of the class Wiki on this topic: a brief, but structured presentation with a short intro and a separate section for each critical topic, issue, or system