

## Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Environmental Engineering

ENV 6932 - Spec Prob in Env Engr

Credit Hours: 3

### **Class Periods:**

T | Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM)

R | Period 7 - 8 (1:55 PM - 3:50 PM)

**Location:** Face-to-face and zoom are both available, also lectures will be recorded and shared  
BLK 0315

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4711699763>

**Academic Term:** Fall 2022

### **Instructor:**

Sara Behdad

[sarabehdad@ufl.edu](mailto:sarabehdad@ufl.edu)

(352) 294-7547

**Office Hours:** Thursday, 9th Period (4:05-4:55 pm) or by appointment [[zoom link](#)]

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4711699763>

**Office Location:** 412 BLK Hall

**Teaching Assistant/Peer Mentor/Supervised Teaching Student:** N/A

Please contact the instructor for any assistance.

### **Course Description**

The objective is to educate graduate students with recent data science methods and available AI technologies for formulating, investigating, and analyzing real-world sustainability challenges. The course educates students with a wide range of machine learning and deep learning algorithms and further discusses their applications in environmental engineering. In addition, it discusses the mechanics of blockchain and cryptocurrencies, as well as the pros and cons of distributed ledger technologies in a sustainability context. The course allows students to leverage their AI/ML skills through writing a term-paper project. The term paper is a group assignment that gives students the opportunity to work in a team and employ their data science skills in environmental engineering applications.

The AI course consists of three main parts (1) machine learning algorithms, (2) deep learning principles, and (3) elements of blockchain technology.

The *machine learning* part provides an introduction to supervised and unsupervised techniques. The focus will be on three groups of prediction, classification, and clustering techniques. It discusses methods such as linear regression, non-linear regression, K-nearest neighbors, decision trees, logistic regression, support vector machine, k-Means clustering, hierarchical clustering, and density-based clustering, among others.

The *deep learning* part covers principles of neural networks such as backpropagation algorithm, activation functions, dropout, gradient descent with momentum, batch normalization, and max pooling. Further, it introduces different categories of neural network models such as convolutional neural networks, recurrent neural networks, and autoencoders. It also discusses different applications of deep learning models such as image classification, object detection, object tracking, semantic segmentation, and instance segmentation.

The *blockchain* part introduces distributed ledger technologies, the technology behind cryptocurrencies, and further discusses the building blocks of cryptocurrencies, specifically bitcoin. It covers topics such as cryptography, data structures, digital signatures, mechanics of bitcoin, bitcoin mining, how bitcoin achieves decentralization, and what are the environmental implications of blockchain technology.

Besides the above-mentioned topics, the course discusses different applications of machine learning and deep learning algorithms and why it is rewarding to learn how to leverage AI/ML skills in an engineering context, particularly in addressing sustainability problems.

**Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites:** Background in Linear Algebra, Calculus, and Probability. Basic knowledge of a programming language (C, C++, Java, Python) is recommended.

### **Course Objectives**

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand different types of supervised and unsupervised machine learning algorithms.
- Apply the correct algorithms on different datasets, and show their understanding of ML/DP algorithms in a practical project.
- Learn the principles of deep learning and their applications in environmental engineering.
- Understand what blockchain technology is, how cryptocurrency networks operate and what are their sustainability implications.

### **Materials and Supply Fees**

No materials and supply fees.

### **Required Textbooks and Software**

No required textbooks.

### **Recommended Materials**

- Bishop, Christopher M. Pattern recognition and machine learning. springer, 2006.
- Goodfellow, Ian, Yoshua Bengio, Aaron Courville, and Yoshua Bengio. Deep learning. Vol. 1, no. 2. Cambridge: MIT press, 2016.
- Narayanan, Arvind, Joseph Bonneau, Edward Felten, Andrew Miller, and Steven Goldfeder. Bitcoin and cryptocurrency technologies: a comprehensive introduction. Princeton University Press, 2016.

### **Course Schedule**

Three types of AI topics will be covered: (1) machine learning algorithms, (2) deep learning models, and (2) blockchain technology and sustainability implications.

*Notes:* The schedule is tentative as the pace dictates. The HW and assignment dates may change with advance notice on Canvas.

Week 1-2:	Intro to data science and machine learning; (Reading Assignment 1)
Week 3:	Prediction methods (Linear regression); (HW1 term paper)
Week 4:	Prediction methods (Logistic and Non-linear regression); (HW2 Individual)
Week 5:	Regularization; (Reading Assignment 2)
Week 6-7:	Distribution estimation; (HW3 term paper)
Week 8:	Classification methods (KNN, decision tree, SVM); (HW4 Individual)

- Week 9: Clustering algorithms (K-means, hierarchical and density-based clustering); (HW5 term paper)
- Week 10: Graphical models (Bayesian Networks, Markov Processes); (Reading Assignment 3)
- Week 11: Deep Learning\_Part 1 (Basics of Neural networks); (HW6 Individual)
- Week 12: Deep Learning\_Part 2 (Backpropagation and Optimizers); Exam Review, Exam
- Week 13: Deep Learning\_Part 3 (Convolutional Neural Networks); (HW7 term paper)
- Week 14: Blockchain and distributed ledger technology; (Reading Assignment 4)
- Week 14: Building blocks of cryptocurrency (hash functions, digital signatures, data structure);
- Week 15: Blockchain\_Sustainability implications; Term paper presentations (HW8 term paper)

**Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy**

Attendance is not required. The lectures will be offered face-to-face as well as synchronously on zoom and will be recorded. To schedule a make-up for an excused, missed assignments, please contact the instructor through email. Requirements for make-up assignments are consistent with the university policies. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations>) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found here: <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

**Evaluation of Grades**

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Individual Homework Assignments (3)	100 each	20%
Reading Assignments (4-5)	100 each	15%
Exam	100	10%
Term Paper Assignments for a team of 2-3 students (5)	100 each	50%
Term Paper Presentation	100	5%
		100%

**Grading Policy**

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
95.0 - 100	A	4.00
90.0 - 94.9	A-	3.67
85.0 - 89.9	B+	3.33
80.0 - 84.9	B	3.00
75.0 - 79.9	B-	2.67
70.0 - 74.9	C+	2.33
65.0 - 69.9	C	2.00
60.0 - 64.9	C-	1.67
55.0 - 59.9	D+	1.33
50.0 - 54.9	D	1.00
45.0 - 49.9	D-	0.67
0 - 44.9	E	0.00

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:  
[UF Graduate Catalog](#)  
[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

### **Term Paper Specifications/policies**

A team of 2-3 students will work on each term paper.

Each team paper should have an original contribution.

The term paper should include the following sections: (1) problem definition (2) literature review (3) Method (4) Method Evaluation/Application (5) Results and Conclusion

Each paper should include a literature review of at least 20 prior studies.

Each paper should include a section describing the problem definition and a section describing the method suggested for solving that problem.

An ideal paper should be an integration of both method development and application.

Term paper page limit: 8-12 pages

Team members will evaluate themselves during the semester, and your grade is a function of your team members' evaluation

The followings are some suggested areas that your paper can belong:

- *Air quality modeling and prediction*
- *Hazard assessment and prediction (e.g. environmental modeling and flood protection)*
- *Energy consumption modeling and prediction*
- *Land use mapping of coastal wetlands*
- *Water quality classification*
- *Wildfire science and management*
- *Product lifecycle prediction*
- *Forecasting environmental consumption*
- *Urban analytics: smart cities, urban informatics, and urban science*
- *Energy consumption and e-waste generation of crypto mining*

### **Term Paper Deadline (tentative)**

The first draft of the papers (including the literature review and the model development) is due on Thursday, October 27th (tentative).

Final papers (including results and design application) are due on Thursday, December 1st.

Term-paper Presentations: The last week of classes.

### **Individual Homework Assignment Policies**

- One individual homework assignment every three or four weeks, a total of 3 assignments in the semester. They are typically assigned on Thursday and are due the following Thursday.
- The homework assignments will be posted on CANVAS, and they are due before the next lecture starts the following week.
- Individual work
- Late assignments are not accepted—one letter grade per day late.
- Requests for correcting possible grading errors must be submitted to the instructor within one week after the work is returned with a written explanation of the correction request; no corrections are possible afterward.
- The tentative schedule for the exam is Thursday, Nov 17, 2022.
- Acknowledge all resources used. Plagiarism is not acceptable. Identical homework submission (applied to individual homework assignments, not paper) receive zero. You should protect your own work, including individual assignments, term papers, and exam all the time.

### ***Students Requiring Accommodations***

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### ***Course Evaluation***

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### ***In-Class Recording***

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### ***University Honesty Policy***

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any

condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### ***Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment***

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering values broad diversity within our community and is committed to individual and group empowerment, inclusion, and the elimination of discrimination. It is expected that every person in this class will treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture.

If you feel like your performance in class is being impacted by discrimination or harassment of any kind, please contact your instructor or any of the following:

- Your academic advisor or Graduate Program Coordinator
- Jennifer Nappo, Director of Human Resources, 352-392-0904, [jpennacc@ufl.edu](mailto:jpennacc@ufl.edu)
- Curtis Taylor, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 352-392-2177, [taylor@eng.ufl.edu](mailto:taylor@eng.ufl.edu)
- Toshikazu Nishida, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, 352-392-0943, [nishida@eng.ufl.edu](mailto:nishida@eng.ufl.edu)

### ***Software Use***

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### ***Student Privacy***

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <https://registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html>

### ***Campus Resources:***

*See page 7.*

## Health and Wellness

### **U Matter, We Care:**

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** <https://counseling.ufl.edu>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

### **Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, Assault, or Violence**

If you or a friend has been subjected to sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or violence contact the **Office of Title IX Compliance**, located at Yon Hall Room 427, 1908 Stadium Road, (352) 273-1094, [title-ix@ufl.edu](mailto:title-ix@ufl.edu)

### **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

## Academic Resources

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

**Career Connections Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling; <https://career.ufl.edu>.

**Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

**Writing Studio**, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

**Student Complaints Campus:** <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>; <https://care.dso.ufl.edu>.

**On-Line Students Complaints:** <https://distance.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>.