CS 6840: Natural Language Processing
Spring 2016

Class Meetings: Tue, Thu 9:00am – 10:20am, ARC 101
Instructor: Razvan Bunescu
Office: Stocker 341
Office Hours: Tue, Thu 10:30 – 11:30pm, or by email appointment
Email: bunescu @ ohio edu
Class Website: http://ace.cs.ohio.edu/~razvan/courses/nlp6840

Prerequisites:
Students are expected to have basic knowledge of formal languages (regular and context free grammars) and to be comfortable with programming. Relevant background material in elementary linear algebra, probability theory and information theory will be made available during the course. Knowledge of machine learning and linguistics will be very useful, though not strictly necessary.

Textbook:
Speech and Language Processing: An Introduction to Natural Language Processing

Recommended Supplementary Text:
Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing
by Christopher Manning and Hinrich Schtze. MIT Press, 1999

Course Description:
Natural Language Processing (NLP) is a branch of Artificial Intelligence (AI) concerned with developing computer systems that can process, understand, or generate natural language. Major applications of NLP include information retrieval and web search engines, information extraction, question answering, machine translation, sentiment analysis, text mining, and speech recognition. This graduate level course will give a fairly broad overview of NLP, with a primary focus on tasks that are widely seen as fundamental for a natural language understanding system such as part of speech tagging, syntactic parsing, word sense disambiguation, semantic role labeling, coreference resolution, and semantic parsing.

Grading:
36%: Homework Assignments
32%: 2 Midterm Exams (Feb 25 and Apr 7)
32%: Final Project
Important Dates:
- Friday, Jan 22: Last day to add class.
- Tuesday, Mar 1: Spring Break, no class.
- Thursday, Mar 3: Spring Break, no class.
- Friday, Mar 25: Last day to drop class.
- Thursday, Apr 21: Last day of this class.

Course and Attendance policies:
- Late assignments: All homework assignments are due before the class. No late submissions will be accepted without prior approval.
- Attendance: It is in your best interest to attend all the lectures. Some of the material will not be found in the textbook. Extra credit will be awarded for class activity. Also, be sure to check your OU email for important announcements on a regular basis.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:
- All work must be the student’s own. All external references used in reports must be properly cited. No credit will be given for duplicate or plagiarized work. Stronger measures, within the guidelines of the Student Handbook, may be taken when conditions warrant. The OU Student Code of Conduct Policy is available online at:
  
  http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/code/index.cfm

Disability-based Accommodation:
- Any student who suspects s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of disability should contact the class instructor privately to discuss the student’s specific needs and provide written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, s/he should contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services.

Other Policies:
- Be sure to notify the professor of any exam conflicts or other extenuating circumstances well in advance. No missed exams will be made up without prior approval. Medical excuse forms need to explicitly mention that the student could not have attended the exam at the specified time due to health concerns.