6.836 Embodied Intelligence – Course Outline

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
February 8, 2002

Class Time and Date: Fridays 9:30 AM-12:30 PM Room 2-190

Class email list: 6836@ai.mit.edu. If you did not attend the first class, send email to cscott@ai.mit.edu to get added to the class email list.

TA's:	Jessica Banks	NE43-937	jessical@ai.mit.edu	x3-7471
	Aaron Edsinger	NE43-934	edsinger@ai.mit.edu	x3-6532

Professor: Rod Brooks NE43-940 brooks@ai.mit.edu x3-5223

**If you have questions about research assignments, it is better to email a TA rather than Prof. Brooks.*

OFFICE HOURS

Jessica Banks	Wednesdays 11 AM-12 PM
Aaron Edsinger	Tuesdays 4 PM-5 PM
Jessica & Aaron	Thursdays 4 PM-5:30 PM

Course Web Page: http://www.ai.mit.edu/courses/6.836

Collaboration: On the research assignments it is fine for people to work together, talk, exchange ideas, argue, etc. But I would like everyone to write things up separately and hand in unique things. Recall that there are 6 research assignments, each worth 10% of the grade. The due dates for the research assignments are on the class syllabus.

Final Project: The final project, worth 40% of the grade, is slightly different. For this group projects are fine, but should represent n times the work put into a project by a single person, if n people are collaborating. A proposal will be due on March 22nd using a format that will be released at a later date. For the final project you should hand in a (group) written report.

> **What should the projects be?**
> A final project for 6.836 should be a significant effort (four research assignments worth) in developing some idea from the class further. This can take the form of a detailed paper design or analysis of some system, or a program that demonstrates something (e.g., an artificial life program, or some evolutionary system applied to some sort of creatures or problem), or the construction and programming of a robot. Note that the course can provide no resources for these projects.

Oral Presentation: There will also be an oral presentation during the week preceding the final week of classes. Every person in the class will have to give a five-minute presentation. This is worth one quarter of the project grade, or 10% of the final grade. Note that the presentations will be the week of May 6-10 and the project will be due on May 16. Many people will not yet have their results, which is fine. The presentation is meant to outline the problem, the approach, and the expected outcome. If there are multiple people in a project then the people should all follow each other, so that you do not need to repeat all the set up information.

Over…

Late Policy: Research Assignments should be handed in at lecture or by 5PM on the research assignments due date. Research assignments handed in after 5PM will be penalized by a whole letter grade deduction. Each additional *business day* late will result in the deduction of another letter grade from the original maximum grade.

More explicitly the following list shows the maximum grade attainable:

Due date - > 100% of max
after 5PM on due date - > 1 letter grade deduction
after 5PM on due date + 1 day - > 2 letter grade deduction
after 5PM on due date + 2 days - > 3 letter grade deduction
after 5PM on due date + 3 days - > 4 letter grade deduction (don't bother handing it in!)
Note: This means that research assignments due on Friday by 5 PM will only suffer a one grade deduction if handed in by 5 PM Monday.

Research assignments can be turned in at lecture or outside of NE43-937.

The project is due on the last day of MIT classes. Due to MIT regulations we cannot give any extensions on the project.

Grading: There will be 6 research assignments each accounting for 10% of the grade. There will be a final project/essay which will account for 40% of the grade.

Due to the nature of the research assignments grading will be done on a whole letter grade basis: A, B, C, D, F (no half grades).

Research Assignment Advice:
Write up research assignments as if you are publishing results from research, i.e., don't hand in pages of code. We are interested in your approach, results, analysis, and any other deep thoughts you may have. If you did write a program that you want us to see (or that a research assignment dictates we see)- you may email us a file that you are sure will run on our Linux/Windows machines which are not on the Athena network.