Natural Language Processing

Reykjavik University – Fall 2015
Teachers

• Hrafn Loftsson, Associate Professor
  - Research area: Natural Language Processing
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• Hannes H. Vilhjálmsson, Associate Professor
  - Research area: Socially Expressive Computing
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• Meet us by appointment
Who takes this course?

• 18 registered students:
  ♦ 12 from Reykjavik University
  ♦ 6 from University of Iceland

• Mandatory course in the Language Technology Master Program
Main text

• Speech and Language Processing
  - Jurafsky and Martin
  - 2nd edition
Supplementary texts

• Available in the RU library:
  - Foundations of Statistical Language Processing
  - Natural Language Processing with Python
Course assessment

1. Three assignments: 30%
   Worked on individually
2. A final (programming project): 30%
   Can be worked on in a group of 2 students
3. A final written exam: 30%
4. Participation in course: 10%
   Discussion sessions, Piazza, labs

The grade for projects decreases by 1 for each day of late return. Projects are not accepted if handed in more than two days late.

Students need to hand in at least 70% of the lab projects in order to take the final exam.
Teaching method

- No “traditional lectures”
- Students watch video lectures and read course material
- Meet with the instructor(s) once a week in a discussion session.
- One lab session every week.
Piazza

- All class-related discussion in the Piazza system.
- Don’t send emails to the instructor(s) (except regarding personal matters)
- We encourage you to ask questions when you’re struggling to understand a concept—you can even do so anonymously.
- https://piazza.com/ru.is/fall2015/t725malv
Course web page

• Main course web page:
  ◆ The syllabus will gradually be updated here

• Some information also on the course web page in Myschool
Python

- Python will be used as the main programming language in this course
- We will use NLTK (Natural Language Toolkit; www.nltk.org) in various lab assignments and projects
- Your first task is to install Python and NLTK on your computer and experiment with it
  - Python tutorial: https://docs.python.org/2/tutorial/