**Assignment 1: CSCI 644 Natural Language Dialogue Systems**

**Due: Before class on August 30, 2018, submit through blackboard as a single file with the file name HW1\_yourlastname (e.g. HW1\_Traum). If you want to include multiple files, e.g. separate transcripts, screen shots or media, include them all as a zip file).**

**Part 1: Background Biographical Info**

**Please briefly answer the following questions related to your interest in the course**

**1 Describe your background (if any) in dialogue systems research, previous coursework or building dialogue systems.**

**2 What program (PhD, Masters,..) and year are you in?**

**3 If PhD - who is your advisor?**

**4 What is your main interest in taking the course?**

**5 Are there any topics related to dialogue systems that you would like to see covered that are not currently in the syllabus, including specialty topics (if so, please list)?**

**Part 2: Dialogue System Interaction**

Your assignment is to interact with and analyze at least four different dialogue systems. Please record conversations for later analysis (e,g, text chat log, screen-shots or audio/video recording and then transcribe at least 10 lines of interaction). Two of the systems should be in the same domain with the same kind of task. At least one system should be in a different domain. Try to have a conversation in-domain for each system (as you think it is intended to be used), but also try to have a conversation from another domain with at least one of the systems.

For each dialogue you engage in, please indicate the following:

1. Name of the system, and how you accessed it (device, website, etc.)
2. Your overall rating (1-7 scale (1= terrible, 7= couldn’t imagine better))
3. Explanation for your rating
4. Best points about the system
5. Worst points about the system
6. Would you use this system again (for this task) if you had a choice?

In addition,

* give a transcription of the dialogue turns (both what you said and what the system said) for at least one dialogue.
* write a one paragraph head-to-head comparison of the two systems from the same domain,

**Extra credit: include a dialogue with a system that no one else in class has tested**.

Some example systems you can try to talk with:

* Dialport.org is a portal that allows connecting to multiple systems in different domains (e.g. game, weather, restaurants, chat) from different universities. There is also “skylar” who acts as front end to take you to the different individual systems.
* Airline information systems, e.g.
	+ United flight Info: 1 (800) 824-6200.
	+ Delta  flight Info: 1 (800) 325-1999
* Chatbots, e.g.,
	+ <https://www.pandorabots.com/mitsuku/>
	+ <https://www.eviebot.com/en/>
	+ Those listed at <http://workshop.colips.org/wochat/chatbot_info.html>
* Commercial assistant systems
	+ Siri (on iphone or mac)
	+ Cortana
	+ Google home
	+ Alexa
* Sgt Star on <https://www.goarmy.com>
* Watson assistant demo https://watson-assistant-demo.ng.bluemix.net