Instructor

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Course Information

HCI 440 Section 701/710
Class Time: Wednesdays, 5:45pm – 9:00pm CST
Campus: Loop, Room: Lewis 1514
Course Homepage: https://d2l.depaul.edu

Course Summary

This course introduces the principles and practices of user-centered interaction design (UCID). The user-centered design process is a methodology aimed at understanding the needs and aims of a selected user group. By uncovering the needs, aims, and motivations of users, designers are better able to design products that are useful and enrich the lives of users.   This class will provide an overview of the UCID principles and practices, which include user research, contextual inquiry, conceptual design, prototyping, and evaluation. Students will iteratively apply these UCID principles and practices in a series of team assignments.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the fundamental components of the user-centered design process.
2. Use research methodologies (observations, interviews, literature searches) to establish interaction requirements
3. Produce coherent interaction designs that reflect design and usability principles
4. Refine interaction designs by using prototyping and evaluation methods
5. Design and conduct user evaluation studies, and communicate the results in a professional manner.
6. Participate and contribute significantly to a multidisciplinary team
7. Better understanding of the field of Human Computer Interaction

Required Texts

The UX Book: Process and Guidelines for Ensuring a Quality User Experience, Rex Hartson and Pardha Pyla.
Morgan Kaufman, 2012, ISBN 978-0123852410.
- **Note**: This text is also available online at the DePaul Libraries Web site,
  http://libguides.depaul.edu/content.php?pid=290474&sid=2385946 , as part of the Safari Online database.
  Campus Connection login is required to access the Safari eBook.
- Additional reading materials will be provided on D2L

Other Recommended Materials: This course is an activity-based course. Many of the class lectures involve activities that require a device that has Internet access and/or a way to capture images. For in-class students, I recommend bringing a laptop, tablet, and/or a smartphone to class.   However, this is not requirement. Even without these devices, you will be able to fully participate in class activities.

Prerequisites

None

Time Requirement

Students should allow for approximately 10-12 hours of work outside of class each week. Team-related assignments may require additional time for meetings and assignment content review.

Class Format

Class meetings will involve a combination of lectures, discussions, hands-on activities, presentations of projects, and group work (during and outside of class). Success and enjoyment of this class depends on your participation. So I strongly encourage and expect participation and cooperation from each student. I find that students get more from the course if they are willing to collaborate and learn from one another.

Coursework Components & Evaluation

The following section presents the evaluation metrics that will be used to determine your grade. The table highlights what features of your work and participation that I will be grading, and how each component will contribute to your final grade. Following the table, I provide a brief description of the evaluation metrics.

Coursework Components	Grade Proportion
Individual Assignment	
Student Survey and Academic Integrity Quiz	1%
Peer Critiques	8%
Topic Presentation	15%
Project 1: Observations	20%
Team Assignments	
Team Agreement	1%
Project 2: Conceptual Design and Requirements	20%
Final Project: Prototypes and User Evaluation	25%
Team Participation	10%
Total	**100%**

Individual Assignments

The individual assignments act as foundational exercises for the rest of the course, particularly the team assignments. There are three main individual assignments: project 1, topic presentation, and peer critiques. Project 1 provides students with the opportunity to engage in UCID practices in real world settings.

The topic presentation is an in-class presentation on a HCI/UCID topic. Both online and in-class students are required to do these topic presentations. In class students must present live during class. Online students will record their presentations, and the presentations will be shown in class.

Every topic presentation will receive feedback from the professor and students. Students will sign-up to provide a peer critique for different presentations. Peer critiques are constructive and are meant to support students in learning and improving ideas.

Team Assignments

These are done as part of a team consisting of three or four students. Team assignments consist of practical exercises in performing various practices of UCID. All students on each team are expected to contribute equally to every assignment. If a student does not contribute their fair portion to an assignment, that student's grade on the assignment is reduced. At the completion of each assignment, students must complete an online peer review of their teammates. The review is used, if necessary, to adjust a student's grade on an assignment, and is used in determining each student's overall team assignment participation grade component.

In extreme and rare cases, teams may be broken up. However, regardless of group changes, the same submission requirements, deadlines, and grading criteria will be applied to all team assignments.

Assignment & Grading Policies

Weekly Participation

In-class students: are expected to attend every class session and participate in all class activities. Attendance will be taken. Unexcused absences should not exceed two during the quarter. **A third absence will reduce your final grade by one letter grade**. Tardiness that exceeds 30 minutes is counted as an absence. Two late arrivals or early departures, or a combination of both, are counted as one absence. Please communicate with me if you must be absent for any reason. Students are individually responsible for material they may have missed due to absence or tardiness.

Online students: are expected to view the COL recording of the class within 2-3 days of the in-class meeting.

Assignment Submission

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments must be submitted to D2L (https://course.depaul.edu/) and are due by 11:59 PM (unless otherwise stated) on the assignment due date. Assignment documents may be submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or Adobe PDF only. No other document format is accepted.

Late Assignments

A late assignment receives 80% of its on-time grade and should be submitted to D2L. An email must be sent to the instructor with an explanation for the late submission. No assignment is eligible for credit beyond 48 hours after its due date; students are nevertheless encouraged to complete and submit all assignments. **Late assignments are reviewed and graded when time permits.**

NOTE: If a student does not properly notify the instructor of exceptional circumstances (see **Other Course Policies,** *Exceptional Circumstances*, following), the late assignment penalty may be waived only with proper documentation (*e.g.,* doctor's note, employer's note on company letterhead, etc.).

Coursework Grade Review Requests

Assignment, quiz, or exam grade disputes are expected to be handled in a civil and professional manner. Every effort is made to grade in a fair and consistent manner. Should a disagreement arise about a coursework grade, the student may submit a grade review request in writing to the instructor. The request must be submitted **within 48 hours** after the assignment grade has been posted. The request must include the student's argument for a different grade evaluation, based on verifiable evidence presented by the student. The instructor handles grade review requests and responds to the student with a review decision as soon as possible.

Grading Scale

If the final numeric grade is less than:	and greater than or equal to:	Final Letter Grade
-	93	A
93	90	A-
90	87	B+
87	83	B
83	80	B-
80	77	C+
77	73	C
73	70	C-
70	67	D+
67	63	D
63	60	D-
60	-	F

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Please note that University guidelines require that you must be earning a passing grade at the time you request an incomplete grade. You should have completed most of the course, with at most one or two major forms of evaluation missing. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

Grade Responsibility

Every effort is made to provide the student with the resources and support needed to succeed in the course. Grades are assigned fairly and impartially based on the coursework submitted by the student, without regard to external circumstances such as GPA goals or employer tuition reimbursement minimum grade requirements. It is the student's responsibility to earn his or her final grade.

Student Resources and Communication

Student Support

Support for both in-class and online students is provided through weekly office hours dedicated to the course and through online question-and-answer discussion forums on D2L. Students in the Chicago area may come to the instructor's posted office hours. Online students may call during these posted office hours or contact me through Skype; however, it is recommended that such calls be scheduled in advance in order to ensure a place in the queue.

Online discussion forums are available to all students for posting general coursework questions and comments. The instructor makes every effort to respond to postings within 24 hours. However, due to schedule issues, it occasionally may take longer to receive an instructor response. Email should be used only for personal issues or for student-specific coursework questions. Make all questions clear and specific.

Note: The instructor does not preview homework assignments.

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted either:
- PLuS Program (for LD, AD/HD) at 773-325-4239 in SAC 220
- The Office for Students with Disabilities (for all other disabilities) at 773-325-7290 Student Center 307

Special Circumstances

Every effort is made to accommodate students who encounter exceptional personal circumstances during the quarter.

Students who experience *unanticipated* personal, work, health, or family emergencies should notify the instructor by email or phone as soon as possible with a brief explanation of the circumstances and any anticipated impact these might have on coursework. Students who have *anticipated* exceptional circumstances such as secular or religious holiday observances, medical treatment, or travel should notify the instructor as early as possible of these circumstances and any anticipated impact these might have on coursework. In both unanticipated and anticipated cases, a suitable plan for dealing with the coursework impact is agreed upon by the student and instructor. In some cases, the instructor may request suitable documentation of the exceptional circumstances.

In-Class and Online Section
Every effort is made to accommodate and be inclusive of online students. Adequate time is given to complete all assignments; so all students must submit assignments by the same day and time.

Communication
All correspondence and communication, such as email and phone messages, must include your full name, course number, and section (in-class or online).

Further, all communication should follow proper informal business correspondence etiquette. Although it may be informal, it must be civil and professional. Any form of inflammatory or discriminatory language in email, online chat, or discussion forums is considered unacceptable. The instructor makes every effort to deal with such situations by providing constructive feedback and guidance should an incident occur; however, in extreme cases, appropriate administrative action may be mandated by DePaul University policy. The goal of the instructor's communication policy is not to stifle debate or to impose a regimen of political correctness, but rather to encourage an open, non-inhibiting learning environment.

Online Instructor Evaluation
Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation.

Academic Policies & Expectations

Guidelines for Class Behavior
- Take an active role in class discussions and activities.
- Be on time.
- Be a respectful participant by keeping phones in silent mode.
- Please do not use laptops or other electronic devices during the class. They detract from participation in the class and are distracting to other students.

Academic Integrity Policy
This course will be subject to the faculty council rules on the Academic Integrity Policy. Cheating includes plagiarism, fraud, and other forms of academic dishonesty. University guidelines on academic integrity and plagiarism can be found at http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu.

Plagiarism
The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course, as well as all other courses in which independent research or writing play a vital part in the course requirements, should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report, or other assignment, which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how

to properly acknowledge source materials, be sure to consult the instructor.

Assignments submitted to D2L will be electronically checked for plagiarism (using specialized software built in to D2L).

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If changes are made, they will be thoroughly addressed during class.