

## HCI 594 HCI Capstone

### Instructor

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Office hours:  
    Thursday 4:30-5:15 PM CDT (CDM 740)  
              9:00-9:45 PM CDT (Lewis 1514)

### Course Information

HCI 594 Section 901  
Class times: Thursday, 5:45-9:00 PM  
Room: Lewis 1514  
Campus: Loop  
Course homepage: <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>  
Last day to drop with no financial penalty: Apr 10, 2015; after Apr 10, a grade of "W" will be assigned.

### Course Summary

Students build and reflect upon skills, methods, and techniques learned in previous HCI courses. Course participation includes paper discussions, project exercises, peer reviews, and contributions to general course discussions. Course participation is demonstrated by participating in online discussion forums.

The course project is a comprehensive work that draws upon principles and methods learned in the foundation and advanced courses. It should include the design of an actual application, using HCI principles and methods. The final report component of the project must include a reflective component that assesses the methods used for the project. Students choose their projects with the advice and consent of the instructor. **The project must be an original work and may not be applied for academic credit in another course.**

Students are expected to share project proposals and presentations, reading summaries, and project exercise reports with the rest of the class.

### Learning Objectives (LO)

1. Students will demonstrate mastery of individual HCI skills and techniques by performing activities supporting other students' projects. (LO1)
2. Students will demonstrate mastery of coordinated HCI skills by completing a comprehensive user-centered design project. (LO2)
3. Students will read about and then evaluate new HCI methods by writing critical summaries of HCI research and practice. (LO3)
4. Students will apply and evaluate new HCI methods by implementing them in their course project. (LO4)
5. Students will communicate their work in a professional manner through written reports and recorded video presentations. (LO5)

### Required Texts

Selected readings, mostly from the ACM Digital Library and the Web. Access to these articles are free from DePaul computers and from any computer using DePaul proxy servers through the library Web site. Article information and reading assignments are provided in the HCI 594 Course Guide posted on D2L.

### Prerequisites

The following requirement is listed as a prerequisite.

- HCI Foundation courses

Although only the HCI Foundation courses are listed as prerequisites for this course, it is recommended that the student complete the HCI Advanced courses, as well, before taking this course.

Please contact the instructor if you have any questions or concerns about the prerequisite requirement.

## Class Format

Class meetings involve a combination of discussions and project-related activities.

## Evaluation & Grading

Coursework includes the following components:

Major Coursework Component	Major Component Proportion	Coursework Sub-component	Point Value
Administration	3 % (5 points)	Academic Integrity Quiz (mandatory)	1 point
		CITI IRB/Human Subjects research training certification (mandatory)	4 points
Participation	32% (60 points)	Reading summaries and discussion	25 points (5 points per paper)
		Project activity participation	15 points (5 points per activity)
		Project proposal reviews (2)	20 points (10 points per project)
Capstone Project	65% (120 points)	Proposal	30 points
		Weekly status reports (6)	30 points (5 points per report)
		Midpoint team peer review	5 points
		Final presentation, presentation comments, report, reflection, and final team peer review	55 points (total)
Total			185 points

## Administration

*Academic integrity quiz.* All students must review available academic integrity resources and complete a short online affirmation of their awareness of these resources. This coursework component is mandatory.

*CITI IRB/Human Subjects research training certification.* All students must provide evidence of completing the CITI IRB/Human Subjects research training certification (see <http://offices.depaul.edu/ors/research-protections/irb/training/Pages/default.aspx> for details). This coursework component is mandatory.

## Participation

*Reading summaries and discussion.* Seven (7) papers will be assigned for reading and discussion. Each paper corresponds to a weekly topic in the schedule. Each student must summarize and discuss a total of five (5) papers over the quarter. After reading a paper, the student posts a one paragraph summary of the paper (3 points), which should be submitted *before* reading any other summary. Two additional points are earned by contributing to the discussion (1 point per question or discussion point). (LO3)

*Project activity participation.* Students develop a class activity based on their projects. Examples include pilot testing, card sorting, competitive designs, and design critiques. The remaining students participate in the activity and post a short summary of their activity experience. Each student should participate in three (3) activities, for a maximum of 15 points (5 points per activity). (LO1)

*Project proposal reviews.* Students review two (2) project proposals and provide feedback to the team posting the report (10 points per review). Outline and review questions are provided in advance. (LO3)

## Capstone Project

*Proposal.* The project proposal is a report that provides: an overview of the project; a summary of project goals; a list of proposed methods to be used (e.g., interviews, usability tests); a project-related activity that involves other members of the class; and, a detailed schedule of methods, milestones and deliverables. (LO1, LO2, LO4, LO5)

*Weekly status reports.* Weekly status reports act as progress reports on project work. Status reports follow a simple format: accomplishments in the past week; plans for the next week; impediments (challenges, set-backs, issues) encountered in the past week. Each status report should compare actual accomplishments with the planned accomplishments of the previous week and identify reasons for any impediments and plans to respond to them. (LO4, LO5)

*Midpoint peer review.* The midpoint peer review is intended as 'health check' for team dynamics and participation. The results of the midpoint peer review do not affect a student's grade.

*Final presentation, presentation comments, report, reflection, and team peer review.* The final project presentation is a 5-minute screencast focusing on an interesting or useful project result. Each student should view and comment on two (2) presentations from other teams. The final project report is a final progress report on the project, containing items from the milestone reports, as well as a presentation of the major project accomplishments. These include the methods that were applied (e.g., interviews, survey, card sort, wireframes, usability tests, etc.). In the reflection, the student considers what worked well for your project and how you might apply the experience in future work, as well as what you might do differently. The team peer review is a confidential review of fellow team members used, in part, to determine each student's Capstone Project grade. (LO5)

## Time Budget

Students should allow a minimum of 12-15 hours of work each week. Team meetings and project collaboration efforts may increase the amount of time required to close to 20 hours per week.

**Grading Scale.** Final letter grades will be given based on the following minimum percent of total points earned:

If the final numeric grade is less than:	and greater than or equal to:	the final letter grade is:
-	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	60	D
60	0	F

The maximum number of coursework points possible is 185. The major grade-tier boundaries and corresponding point totals are:

Points	Normalized Numeric Grade	Letter Grade
167	90	A-
148	80	B-
130	70	C-
111	60	D

**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. Please do not ask for a grade which you do not earn.

**Student Support & Communication.** Support for both in-class and online students is provided through weekly in-person 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 outside the Chicago area may call during these posted office hours; 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 and should be used 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. Please make all questions clear and specific.

**Please include the course number and section (e.g., HCI 594-901) in the email Subject: field and include your full name in the body of the email.**

*Note: The instructor does not preview homework assignments.*

### **Class Schedule**

A detailed course schedule with assignments and due dates is provided in the Checklist on D2L. This may be updated as needed to reflect unanticipated circumstances that arise during the quarter.

## Policies & Expectations

*An asterisk \*\* following a heading indicates an instructor-specific policy*

### General Guidelines for Course Behavior

- Take an active role in class discussions and activities.
- Practice professionalism in your communications with the professor and fellow students.

### Attitude

A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course.

### Civil Discourse

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be [Socially Responsible Leaders](#). It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

### Exceptional 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 after the emergency 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, suitable documentation of the exceptional circumstances may be requested by the instructor.

### Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. CDM policy requires the student to initiate the request for incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in MyCDM.

- All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptional cases will receive such approval.
- If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirement independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form.
- By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of 'F' after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor.
- An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.

### Withdrawal

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (<http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>). Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

**Instructor Request: Withdrawal\***

Because of the small size of this class and the strong inter-dependency among team members and teams, please notify me and, if you choose, your other team members, as soon as possible after any decision to withdraw from the course. This will allow me to make appropriate adjustments to teams to accommodate the loss of a team member.

**Retroactive Withdrawal**

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval.

College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MyCDM. The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows:

- Autumn Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter
- Winter Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter
- Spring Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter
- Summer Terms: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

**Coursework Grade Review Requests\***

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.

**Academic Integrity Policy and Plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course 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 grade of 'F' in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else.

**Instructor Policy Extensions: Academic Integrity Policy and Plagiarism\***

All assignment submissions to D2L are subjected to automated plagiarism analysis using *Turnitin*. Analysis results are visible to the student.

Students must complete a short *Academic Integrity Awareness Quiz* before submitting their first assignment. If you have any questions about what constitutes an academic integrity violation or what its consequences might be, please be sure to have these questions answered before submitting your first assignment.

**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 the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at:

Student Center, LPC, Suite #370

Phone number: (773)325.1677

Fax: (773)325.3720

TTY: (773)325.7296

### **Online Instructor Evaluation**

Instructor and course evaluations provide valuable feedback that can improve teaching and learning. The greater the level of participation, the more useful the results. As students, you are in the unique position to view the instructor over time. Your comments about what works and what doesn't can help faculty build on the elements of the course that are strong and improve those that are weak. Isolated comments from students and instructors' peers may also be helpful, but evaluation results based on high response rates may be statistically reliable (believable). As you experience this course and material, think about how your learning is impacted. Your honest opinions about your experience in and commitment to the course and your learning may help improve some components of the course for the next group of students. Positive comments also show the department chairs and college deans the commitment of instructors to the university and teaching evaluation results are one component used in annual performance reviews (including salary raises and promotion/tenure). The evaluation of the instructor and course provides you an opportunity to make your voice heard on an important issue—the quality of teaching at DePaul. Don't miss this opportunity to provide feedback!

### **Changes to Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under *News* in D2L and sent via email.