



DePaul University / Jeff Carrion

UXD 220: Prototyping Methods I, Winter 2024

Course Modality: Course meets Tuesdays, 10AM-1:15PM, in 14 E. Jackson, Room 210

Instructor Info



Instructor: Associate Professor Paige Treebridge

Office: 14 E. Jackson 903

Phone: 312-362-7926

Email: ptreebri@depaul.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-5 PM, scheduled via Bluestar

Communication: Email is the best way to reach me, and I'll respond within 48 hours, when possible. I also aim to give you feedback on assignments within a week when possible, and if that changes, I'll let you know.

Course Description



This course focuses on designing information and interaction through prototyping, with an emphasis on information architecture and interaction design. Students create working low to mid-fidelity prototypes that demonstrate a range of design patterns for interactive systems.



Reading Materials

Designing Interfaces (3rd edition), Tidwell, Jennifer; Brewer, Charles; Valencia, Aynne

The book is available AT NO COST through O'Reilly for Higer E, linked here: <https://library.depaul.edu/find/Pages/ebooks.aspx>

Class Policies



Attendance & Participation

This course takes place on Tuesdays, from 10AM to 1:15 PM. You are required to be in class, and to participate as outlined in this syllabus (below).



Late Work

Late work will be accepted under an agreement that begins with an [Extended Absence Notification](#). For work that is late by no more than one week, you may turn the work in as normal but you must notify me that it has been turned in: ptreebri@depaul.edu. If you fall behind by more than two weeks and/or are missing multiple assignments, you must make an office hours appointment with me to discuss catching up.



COVID-19 Updates

For the latest news and resources, please visit [DePaul's response to COVID-19 page](#).

Assignments

- Week 1 Prototype: Castle Walls
- Week 3 Rough Prototype: Navigating the Loop
- Week 4-6 Mid-Fidelity Prototype: Design for Social Impact

- Final High-Fidelity Prototype: Redesign
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Assignment Details

These are partial descriptions. Full assignments are available in the Content section of D2L.

Week 1 Prototype: Castle Walls

Prototyping Project: Castle Wall Scaling

Objective:

Design and prototype a medieval siege device using provided materials to scale castle walls. Consider defensive tactics and countermeasures.

Week 3 Rough Prototype: Navigating the Loop

One class assignment, approximately 2 hours during class time, and 3 hours of homework.

Design Problem:

There is a new initiative by the city of Chicago and The Art Institute of Chicago to connect to universities in the loop. Your design task is to create a rough prototype of a wayfinding system that helps move students from DePaul's loop campus to The Art Institute's front door (the entrance behind the lions). The city and AIC need help to get students in the front door, and you're their selected design team (student groups of 2-4). The signage can be on any DePaul building surface, inside or out, and any PUBLIC surface (e.g. sidewalks, existing signs and light poles. Signage can also take the form of non-obstructive temporary signs, and chalkboard or other sidewalk signs.

Assignment:

You are to go from the classroom, out into the city, during class, and capture images onto which you will superimpose your rough prototype way-finding system.

Week 4-6 Mid-Fidelity Prototype: Design for Social Impact

In this three-week project, students will develop a mid-fidelity prototype for a mobile application that addresses a specific real-world problem. The focus is on user experience (UX) design, prototyping, user testing, and iterative development. The goal is to create an app prototype that is both functional and user-friendly, addressing the chosen problem effectively.

1. Choose a Real-World Problem: Select one of the following real-world issues to address with your app prototype:

- Environmental Impact Tracking: Design an app that helps individuals track and reduce their environmental footprint.
- Mental Health Support for Young Adults: Create an app that provides mental health resources, self-care tips, and community support for young adults.
- Accessibility in Public Spaces: Develop an app to review and rate the accessibility of public spaces for people with disabilities.

Final High-Fidelity Prototype: Redesign

This assignment challenges students to apply their skills in user experience design by undertaking a redesign of interactivity in an existing website or app.

The focus is on a specific section that involves significant user interaction, demanding more than just basic navigation. The chosen feature should be a dynamic and interactive element of a website or app, where user decisions lead to varied outcomes. Examples include:

- Customization Tool: An interface where users can customize a product or service, such as designing a personalized t-shirt or configuring a car's features.
- Interactive Map: A map feature that allows users to explore, filter, or receive information based on their location inputs.
- Reservation System: A booking or reservation interface, such as for restaurants, hotels, or event tickets, which requires user input and offers various options or preferences.
- E-Learning Module: An educational section with interactive quizzes, simulations, or lessons that adapt based on the user's progress or choices.
- Dynamic Dashboard: A user dashboard that displays personalized data, analytics, or recommendations based on the user's activities or input.
- Interactive Story or Game: A narrative or game section where user choices significantly alter the storyline or outcome.

These examples require substantial engagement and decision-making from the user, making them ideal for a redesign project that focuses on improving the user experience through interactive elements.

Group Work

Any project in this class may be completed by individual students or a group of 2-4 students. 4 is the limit and I will not approve larger groups. Groups of 2-3 work best. If you would like to work in a group, please post your proposal to the Group Projects Discussion Forum in D2L.

Grading

There are 100 points possible for this class.

Week 1 Prototype: Castle Walls	10 pts
Week 3 Rough Prototype	20 pts
Week 4-6 Mid-fidelity Prototype: Design for Social Impact	30 pts
Final High-Fidelity Prototype: Redesign	40 pts

Grading Scale

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preface & Chapter 1, book: Designing Interfaces (3rd Edition), Jenifer Tidwell, Charles Brewer, and Aynne Valencia
Week 2	Designing for People	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 3. Getting Around: Navigation, Signposts, and Wayfinding
Week 3	Nav, Signposts, Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 4. Layout of Screen Elements• Mid-Fidelity Prototype: Navigating the Loop, due Week 4, in-class presentation
Week 4	Layout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 5. Visual Style and Aesthetics• Mid-Fidelity Prototype Design for Social Impact,
Week 5	Mid-Fidelity Prototyping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 10. Getting Input from Users: Forms and Controls
Week 6	User Testing and Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 6. Mobile Interfaces
Week 7	Mid-fidelity Prototype Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 2. Organizing the Content: Information Architecture and Application Structure
Week 8	High-Fidelity Prototype Redesign Studio	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 8. Doing Things: Actions and Commands
Week 9	High-Fidelity Prototype Redesign Studio	No further reading. You should check the entire book for PATTERNS that are relevant to the

		redesign you are producing.
Week 10	High-Fidelity Prototype In-Progress Critique	work on prototype
Finals Week	High-fidelity Prototype Due	Prototype due: Tuesday, March 19 by 11:59 PM): A detailed PDF document that includes: Project Overview: A brief introduction to the chosen site/app, its purpose, and the specific section redesigned.

University Policies & Resources

Academic Integrity

DePaul University is a learning community that fosters the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas within a context that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others and for society at large. Violations of academic integrity, in any of their forms, are, therefore, detrimental to the values of DePaul, to the students' own development as responsible members of society, and to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Violations include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or misuse of the university's academic resources; alteration or falsification of academic records; and academic misconduct. Conduct that is punishable under the Academic Integrity Policy could result in additional disciplinary actions by other university officials and possible civil or criminal prosecution. Please refer to your Student Handbook or visit Academic Integrity at DePaul University (<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>) for further details.

Library Resources

The DePaul University Library (<https://library.depaul.edu>) provides access to authoritative information sources, such as scholarly articles, journals, and books, primary sources, and research databases. Research help is available daily in-person and via chat, email, phone, or text. You may also make an appointment (in-person, phone, or Zoom) with a librarian to discuss your research projects.

Center for Students with Disabilities

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling you to access accommodations and support services to assist your success. There are two office locations:

Loop Campus - Lewis Center #1420 - (312) 362-8002

Lincoln Park Campus - Student Center #370 - (773) 325-1677

Students can also email the office at csd@depaul.edu

Students who are registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact me privately to discuss how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course. This is best done early in the term. Our conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

University Counseling & Psychological Services

[University Counseling & Psychological Services](#) (UCAPS) helps remove barriers to learning and support academic success by providing free, goal-focused, collaborative, short-term, confidential, individual, and group counseling services for DePaul's students. UCAPS has a diverse multi-disciplinary staff that includes licensed mental health professionals in psychology, counseling, and social work.

Students* can talk to a therapist or schedule a brief screening and consultation appointment in the following ways:

- To speak directly to a therapist 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, students should call 773-325-CARE (2273) and Press "1" when prompted.
- To schedule a brief screening and consultation (BSC) appointment, students should call 773-325-CARE (2273) during regular business hours and Press "2" when prompted.
- Students can visit go.depaul.edu/ucaps and click the '[Schedule a Consultation](#)' button to use online scheduling for a Brief Screening & Consultation (BSC) appointment. Online scheduling is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. *All BSCs scheduled online are for phone appointments. To schedule an in-person or telehealth BSC, please call 773-325-CARE (2273) and Press "2" when prompted.*

*Services are provided based on student eligibility. For full eligibility details please visit go.depaul.edu/ucaps.

The Writing Center

I strongly recommend you make use of the Writing Center throughout your time at DePaul. The Writing Center provides free peer writing tutoring for DePaul students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Writing Center tutors work with writers at all stages of the writing process, from invention to revision, and they are trained to identify recurring issues in your writing as well as address any specific questions or areas that you want to talk about. Visit www.depaul.edu/writing for more information.

Name & Pronouns

I will gladly address you by the name and pronouns that you indicate. Please advise me of your name and/or your pronouns early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate notes in my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a first name that differs from their legal name, and they may also update their gender and gender pronouns. If a new name is identified, it will display as a “preferred name” in University-related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal necessity. For more information and instructions on how to make these updates, please see the LGBTQIA Resource Center’s [Personal Information Change](#) resources and the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at policies.depaul.edu.

Dean of Students

The [Dean of Students Office \(DOS\)](#) promotes student learning and ethical decision making in an inclusive and validating environment. Utilizing a comprehensive approach to student advocacy that is informed by DePaul’s Catholic, Vincentian, and urban mission, the office collaborates with students, staff, faculty, parents and community partners to support students in reaching their academic and personal success.

The Dean of Students Office is primarily responsible for administering and adjudicating violations of the Code of Student Responsibility at DePaul University. Additionally, the office provides the administrative withdrawal and absence notification process, and can help students identify campus and community resources in times of personal and/or family crises and medical emergencies.

You can contact the Dean of Students Office by calling (773) 325-7290 or emailing deanofstudents@depaul.edu. In cases of emergency, please call the Department of Public Safety at (773) 325-7777.

Sexual & Relationship Violence

As a DePaul community, we share a commitment to take care of one another. Classroom relationships are based on trust and communication. Sometimes, material raised in class may bring up issues for students related to sexual and relationship violence. In other instances, students may reach out to faculty as a source of help and support. It is important for students to know that faculty are required to report information reported to them about experiences with sexual or relationship violence to DePaul’s [Title IX](#) Coordinator. Students should also know that disclosing experiences with sexual or relationship violence in course assignments or discussion does not constitute a formal report to the University and may not begin the process of DePaul providing a response. Students seeking to report an incident of sexual or relationship violence to DePaul should contact Public Safety (Lincoln Park: 773-325-7777;

Loop: 312-362-8400) and/or the Title IX Coordinator (Lincoln Park: 312-362-8970 or titleixcoordinator@depaul.edu).

Students seeking to speak confidentially about issues related to sexual and relationship violence should contact a Survivor Support Advocate in the Office of Health Promotion & Wellness for information and resources (773-325-7129 or hpw@depaul.edu). More information is available at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/hpw/shvp.html>. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these services and to seek help around sexual and relationship violence for themselves as well as their peers who may be in need of support.

Basic Needs

Access to nutritious food and reliable housing are factors that influence many students' ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. However, students facing food or housing insecurities may be hesitant to call attention to their ongoing struggles. DePaul University is committed to and cares about all students. To help you manage personal challenges and basic needs security, the university offers several resources. Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office for support: by calling (773) 325-7290 or emailing deanofstudents@depaul.edu. You can also contact [Elizabeth Ann Seton Food Pantry and Sandwich Kitchen](#) and the [Dax Program](#) (Chicago - Depaul; email: emily.edwards@depaulusa.org; phone: (312) 362-7931 for support. The Center for Access and Attainment has also created [a guide for Food and Housing Resources](#) that you can review.

If you are comfortable doing so, please also let me know about these challenges, so that I can help you access resources.