

Syllabus for HCI 450: Foundations of HCI, Spring 2019

Overview

Application of psychological theory to the design of computer systems. Overview of applicable research methods. Sensation, cognition, decision making, display and control design.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- understand the *why* behind HCI usability guidelines and heuristics.
- determine when guidelines do and do not apply
- find, evaluate, and summarize research on a given HCI research topic
- deeply understand and describe one particular HCI research area

Prerequisites

IT 403

Textbooks

"Designing with the Mind in Mind: Simple Guide to Understanding User Interface Design Guidelines", Second Edition, 2014. Jeff Johnson. ISBN-13: 978-0124079144 ISBN-10: 0124079148.

Recommended: "The Design of Everyday Things", 2013. D. Norman. Basic Books. ISBN: 0465050654.

Attendance

Class attendance is strongly encouraged and useful (whether in-person or online), but will not be checked. However, if you are absent from class you are responsible for understanding the material and for finding out about any announcements made in that class.

Please silence and stow your cellphones. No texting during class! (Guesses about why?)

Class Plan

The following class plan is tentative and subject to change as the course progresses.

- **Class 1:** (4/3) Course overview. Introduction.
- **Class 2:** (4/10) Research methodology
- **Class 3:** (4/17) Perception
- **Class 4:** (4/24) More perception
- **Class 5:** (5/1) Cognition: Attention and memory
- **Class 6:** (5/8) Affordances. Motion

- **Class 7:** (5/15) Multiple minds. Learning.
- **Class 8:** (5/22) Rarely rational. Timing. Stress.
- **Class 9:** (5/29) Multitasking. Social effects.
- **Class 10:** (6/5) Presentations
- **Class 11:** (6/12) Final Exam

Instructor Information

Email	peterh@cdm.depaul.edu
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Phone	312-362-5736
Office Hours	Monday and Wednesday: 3:30-5:00pm (except 4/3, 4/10, 5/1, 6/5) or by arrangement
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Assessment

Your final grade will be based on:

- Weekly warm-ups: 10 points
- Class participation: 10 points
- Two written assignments: 25 points (10 and 15 points)
- Research review topic, outline, paper and presentation: 35 points total
- Final exam: 20 points

The grading scale will be:

Points	Grade
93.3+	A
90	A-
86.6	B+
83.3	B
80	B-
76.6	C+
73.3	C
70	C-
66.6	D+
60	D
< 60	F

Weekly Warm-ups:

To help you get the most out of the readings, there will be weekly warm-ups on that week's readings through D2L. The warm-ups will generally consist of around 6 questions, and must be completed at least *3 hours before* class begins. (This applies to both in-class and online students.) The lowest score will be dropped.

Participation:

All students (and especially online students) can get participation credit primarily by posting comments to the weekly discussion topics. The postings should be meaty (not e.g., "I agree", or "I disagree"). For in-class students, half of the participation grade will come from in-class participation, and half from the discussion forums. **More participation in the discussion forums will be expected from online students.** [More detail on Discussion Forum participation](#)

You can get participation extra credit points (to make up for missed participation opportunities) by participating in the [CDM subject pool](#). Each hour of participation will earn 1 participation point, up to a max of 2 points.

Assignments

- Unless otherwise stated, written assignments are due via D2L at the time and date posted on the course homepage.
- Late homework submissions will be accepted up to 3 days late with a penalty of 10% per day.
- All homework assignments will count towards the final grade.
- The Research Review paper will include a presentation to the class that describes what you learned.

The **final exam** will be held in the regular classroom on Wednesday June 12th, 2019. OL students may either take the final with the rest of the class or may arrange to take it with a proctor between the day after the last regular day of class, up to the day of the scheduled in-class exam inclusive, i.e. between Thursday, June 6th and Wednesday, June 12th.

Assignment resubmissions:

If you get 85% or lower on Project 1, 2 or 3, you may resubmit the assignment for up to 75% of the missed points (except for late penalty points), if you do it within one week of receiving the grade, and clearly indicate (by highlighting or "track changes") what you updated. *However, this does not apply to assignments which were not submitted at all.*

On Plagiarism

You are encouraged to discuss all homeworks and projects with your classmates. You are, however, required to complete them on your own. In particular, this means that you are not allowed to "cut and paste" text from anywhere else, *or to paraphrase* someone else's work, unless it is a *very small* part of your submission, the copied text is clearly indicated (i.e. surrounded by quotation marks), and the source is clearly identified (with citation and full reference information).

All assignments will be submitted to "Turn it in" for automatic plagiarism testing. This system is very good at finding things that have been copied, so just don't do it.

[School policies on instructor evaluation, email, plagiarism and incompletes.](#)