

## Instructor

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Office hours: Mondays 10:00am-12:30pm, Fridays 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

## Course Information

Class times: **Mondays, 1:30p - 4:45 PM**

Campus: Loop, Room: Daley 206

Course homepage: [d2l.depaul.edu](http://d2l.depaul.edu)

## Course Summary

What does it take to create a digital application that is useful and usable? This course focuses on conceptualizing, designing, and prototyping interactive applications. Students will apply design principles and patterns in a user-centered design process, build and refine interactive prototypes using the Axure prototyping tool.

## Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to create sketches, wireframes, and interactive prototypes of interaction designs as part of a user-centered design process.
2. Students will develop an understanding of common design patterns and practice applying them.
3. Students will be able to produce a coherent interaction design that reflects design and usability principles.
4. Students will be able to refine interaction designs by applying evaluation methods.

## Texts

- McElroy, Kathryn (2017). Prototyping for Designers: Developing the Best Digital and Physical Products. ISBN-13: 978-1491954089, ISBN-10: 1491954086
- Additional Readings Will Be Posted on D2L or handed out in class

## Prerequisites

ISM 210 or GD 200

## Software & Computers

This class meets in a room that is equipped with laptops for student use during class time. Students may use these laptops; however, I strongly encourage students bring their own devices. Students will be expected to understand and follow all related policies and procedures. The course involves Axure RP, a wireframing and prototyping tool and other similar tools. I will provide some demos and tutorials; however, you are expected to use learning resources on your own as well. Axure RP is installed on the computers in: CDM 801 Lab, CDM 1st Floor Lab, CDM 819 Lab, LPC SC 364. Apply for a free license ASAP here: <https://www.axure.com/edu>. Axure RP support and learning resources: <http://www.axure.com/learn>.

Students will also be using 3D printers and/or CNC machines in the IRL lab. All software used to create 3D prints are open source. Students will need to create an account on [Tinkercad.com](https://tinkercad.com) to create their models. Students can also install Cura (<https://ultimaker.com/en/products/ultimaker-cura-software>) on their devices.

## 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.

Assignments	Grade Proportion
Individual Work	
Attendance & Class Participation	10%
In-Class Design Workshops	10%
Portfolio Website & Presentation Check-Ins	15%
Project 1	20%
Group Work	
Project 2	20%
Final Project	25%

- **Attendance and Class Participation.** Class meetings will involve a combination of lecture, discussions, hands-on activities, presentations, and group work. Assigned readings should be completed before class. The Attendance and Class Participation portion of the grade is based on attendance, contributions to discussions, and participation/completion of in-class activities. See Attendance Policy.
- **Design Workshops.** Assignments involve applying design patterns in user interface wireframes/prototypes.
- **Group Projects.** In small groups, students will conduct user research and produce a design for a website, mobile app, or interactive system. All students are expected to contribute equally.
- **Portfolio Piece.** Each student will construct a project website to highlight skills and products developed in the class, which may be used in a professional portfolio.
- **Design Presentations Check-Ins.** Two times in the quarter, students will present their portfolio websites in class. Students will discuss the state of their website and justify their designs based on design principles, user testing, and/or design reviews.
- **Extra Credit.** Opportunities for extra credit may be offered, ex.: participation in CDM user studies, job/internship show and tell, and special topic mini-presentations.

## Assignment & Grading Policies

### Assignment Submission

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments must be submitted to D2L (<https://d2l.depaul.edu/>) and are due by 11:59 PM (unless otherwise stated) on the assignment due date.

### Late Assignments

Completing assignments on time and having them ready for discussion and critique in class is essential for this class. Thus, to encourage accountability, late assignments will not receive credit unless acceptable reasons are documented (sickness, family emergency) and communicated to me within 24 hours of the due date.

### 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 students is provided through weekly office hours dedicated to the course and through online question-and-answer discussion forums on D2L.

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:

- PLS 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

**Visit the Writing Center**

Consider visiting the Writing Center to discuss your written assignments for this course. Writing Center Tutors are specially trained undergraduate and graduate students who can help you at any stage of your writing project. They can help you focus and develop your ideas, review your drafts, and polish your writing, as well as answer questions about grammar, mechanics, style, and citation.

You may schedule appointments on an as-needed or weekly basis. In addition to Face-to-Face appointments, the Writing Center also provides Written Feedback by Email and Online Appointments. Be sure to schedule your appointment with enough time to think about and incorporate the feedback you'll receive. Bring/upload your assignment handout and/or any other relevant materials to your appointment.

**How do I schedule a Writing Center appointment?** To schedule a Face-to-Face, Written Feedback by Email, or Online Appointment, visit [www.depaul.edu/writing](http://www.depaul.edu/writing). You can also call one of our offices: (312) 362-6726 (Loop Office, 1600 Lewis Center) or (773) 325-4272 (LPC Office, 250 McGaw Hall). When possible, the Writing Center accepts walk-in requests, but it's always a good idea to schedule your appointment ahead of time. You may schedule tutorials on an as-needed basis or as weekly standing appointments up to 3 hours per week. All Writing Center services are free to the DePaul community.

**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.

**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.

**Group Assignments**

When working in groups, you are responsible for communication outside of class within your group. It is your responsibility to be proactive in reaching out to group members and working together to complete assignments. When a group assignment is handed in, it is assumed that the work represents the final deliverable for the whole group. The entire group should review the assignment before it is handed in. If your group is having trouble communicating and/or working together, please contact me as soon as possible to resolve issues.

*Anti-slacker Rule:* A significant amount of your final grade is based on your group projects. Therefore, it is imperative that you significantly contribute to your team projects. In EXTREME cases, if group members have clear evidence that another member is not contributing in a substantial manner to the project, they can formally fire that team member. First, the team should formally communicate their concerns and evidence of lack of engagement with me via email, copying all the members other than the one in question. I will then send ONE written warning to the team member. If the team member in question still does not participate in a satisfactory manner, the group should send me another email with evidence of lack of participation and again explaining the circumstances. The team member will then receive written notification from me that they have been fired. A fired member will still be required to submit the same assignments on the syllabus on the same topic as their former group. A fired group member will automatically lose 30% of the points on ALL subsequent submissions for the project.

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Attendance will be taken. **Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student.** *Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course. Communicate with me if you must be absent or late for any reason.* Students are individually responsible for material they may have missed due to absence or tardiness. Please notify me in advance if there are any special needs. Students are responsible for signing in.

**Absence Notification**

Should a student need to be absent from class for a medical, mental health or personal reason, the Dean of Students Office can notify faculty of absences not exceeding five days per incident, as long as proper documentation is submitted along with the absence notification form

<http://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx>

**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.

**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

**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.