CIS 330-CN Human Computer Interaction
Winter 2017
Wednesday 6:15-9:15
Location: Wieboldt Hall 701

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Course Summary

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) is an area of research that encompasses usability, design, information architecture, psychology, ethnography, and software engineering. In this course, we draw on these disciplines to understand how people interact with technological systems in everyday life. The main focus of this course will apply a user centered design approach to iteratively develop and evaluate a prototype. Course topics include: contextual interviews, design process, prototype construction, and evaluation techniques. While no prior programming experience is required the student will benefit from experience with computing conventions as well as appreciation and willingness to learn.

Resources

All readings will be made available for you on Canvas. If you wish to purchase a text, many the readings are from the following:

- Human-Computer Interaction 3rd Ed. – Alan Dix, Janet Finlay, Gregory Abowd, and Russel Beale
- Rapid Contextual Design – Karen Holtzblatt, Jessamyn Burns, and Shelley Wood
- Optional: Interaction Design – Helen Sharp, Yvonne Rogers, and Jenny Preece

Schedule

Week 1 (1/4):

> Class Topics: Introduction to the course, brief history of HCI, interaction experience in class exercise, introduction to the design process and discussion of class project.
> Assignment Due: None
> Readings: None

Week 2 (1/11):

> Class Topics: Interaction techniques, discussion of project ideas, understanding people, conceptual models, interface metaphors
> Assignment Due: Project ideas
> Readings: Intro HCI; Norman Chp 1

Week 3 (1/18):

> Class Topics: Contextual inquiry, contextual design, in class interview activity
> Assignment Due: None
> Readings: Contextual Design Chp 3 & 4

Week 4 (1/25):

> Class Topics: Discussion of contextual inquiry assignment, work modeling, sketching, wire frames, storyboarding, in class sketching activity

Assignment Due: Contextual inquiry
Readings: Contextual Design Chp 6; Contextual Design Chp 12; HCI Chp 13

Week 5 (2/1):
Class Topics: Share project proposals, low & high fidelity prototyping, personas, in class prototyping activity
Assignment Due: Project proposal
Readings: HCI Chp 6.4; Contextual Design Chp 9

Week 6 (2/8):
Class Topics: Design principles, guidelines for usability engineering, in class heuristic evaluation activity
Assignment Due: None
Readings: Nielson Chp 5

Week 7 (2/15):
Class Topics: User testing, user testing activity, Exam review
Assignment Due: Initial prototype
Readings: Contextual Design Chp 14; HCI Chp 9.4-9.6

Week 8 (2/22):
Class Topics: In-class exam, human cognition and HCI
Assignment Due: None
Readings: None

Week 9 (3/1):
Class Topics: Final presentations and special topics lecture
Assignment Due: User testing assignment
Readings: TBA

Week 10 (3/8):
Final presentations and special topics lecture
Assignment Due: Final presentation
Readings: TBA

Assignments
Project Ideas: 5%
Contextual Inquiry: 10%
Project Proposal: 15%
Initial Prototype: 10%
User Testing: 10%
Exam: 10%
Final Presentation: 20%
Class Participation: 20%

Attendance, Readings, Late Assignments, Exam

- Attendance at all lectures is expected. Unexcused absences will directly affect your class participation grade.
- You are expected to read each assignment listed in the syllabus prior to the lecture with which it is associated.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of the designated class period. Late assignments will be penalized 15%.
- Make up exams can be arranged if absence is announced to the instructor via email **five (5) days prior** to the exam date. All students have the option to retake the exam one time.
- If you are having trouble with homework, communicate with me. However, please do not leave it until the last minute. If you come to me with problems before the assignment due date, you will be much more likely to receive help.

Accessibility Policy
In compliance with Northwestern University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Request for academic accommodations need to be made during the first week of the quarter, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with AccessibleNU for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

For more information, visit: http://www.northwestern.edu/accessiblenu/

Academic Integrity at Northwestern
Students are expected to comply with University regulations regarding academic integrity. If you are in doubt about what constitutes academic dishonesty, speak to the instructor before the assignment is due and/or examine the University web site. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating on an exam (e.g., copying others' answers, providing information to others, using a crib sheet) or plagiarism of a paper (e.g., taking material from readings without citation, copying another student's paper). Failure to maintain academic integrity on an assignment will result in a loss of credit for that assignment at a minimum. Other penalties may also apply. The guidelines for determining academic dishonesty and procedures followed in a suspected incident of academic dishonesty are detailed on the university website.