Syllabus

Course Syllabus and Requirements

Human Factors of Computer Systems and

Advanced Human Factors of Computer Systems

CS4326 and CS5326

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PART I: COURSE OVERVIEW

1. Course: Human Factors of Computer Systems

2. Course Description: CS 4326: Human Factors of Computer Systems.

Credits: 3. Prerequisite: a grade of C or better in Computer Science 3358. Professional level presentation of techniques and research findings related to human-computer interaction.

3. Textbook: Interaction Design - Beyond Human-Computer Interaction
4e VitalSource XML by Preece (978-1-119-04756-8).

4. Assignments and Examinations: An on-line classroom management system makes all assignments and administers all examinations.

5. Instructor: Dr. John Durrett, Esq., Associate Professor of Computer Science.

6. Education: Bachelor of Science, University of Houston; Doctor of Philosophy, University of Colorado; Juris Doctor, St. Mary's University, School of Law; Neuropsychology, The Fielding Institute.

 7. Purpose:

This course is constructed and offered within the scope of the university's mission and shared values as contained in the 2017-2023 Texas State University Plan.

This course is an organized and comprehensive collection of empirically based knowledge in the area of interaction design. This course has six goals:

A. Introduce the student to the fundamental knowledge necessary to understand the capabilities and limitations of people using computer systems,

B. Present an organized statement of the rules of system design and implementation based on contemporary research and established standards,

C. Present relevant methodology for evaluating systems from the users' perspective,

D. Present relevant case studies of human factor evaluation and human factor design research associated with computer systems,

E. Provide opportunities to apply interaction design and human factors to representative written and programming assignments, and

F. Provide opportunities to prepare written technical documentation and analyses of various interactive systems.

PART II: EVALUATION, GRADE DETERMINATION AND STANDARDS

1. Components of Work Evaluated:

A. Written Assignments: Completion of representative assignments selected from the ID book in written form conforming to standards identified as Standard for Written Work.

B. Examinations: Short, in class examinations testing the major concepts presented in lecture and in the ID book are occasional scheduled and announced in a timely

manner.

        C. Attendance and Participation: Regular and timely attendance at scheduled classes is expected. Participation in class by active listening, responding to questions and contributing to the class discussions is expected.

2. Grading Policies:

        A. Grades are determined by computing the ratio of total points earned to total points possible to earn in the three categories of work evaluated, converted to a percentage.

        B. The value obtained is interpreted on the basis the descriptions below:

) 90% - 100% -   A - Excellent

) 80% - 89%   -   B - Good

) 70% - 79%   -   C - Average

) 60% - 69%   -   D - Marginally Acceptable

) 00% - 60%   -   F - Unacceptable

3. Withdrawal Policy:

        You may withdraw at any time prior to the last date to withdraw from classes specified by the University Calendar results in the grade of W (P) being awarded.

4. Final Exam:

        There is no final examination.

5. Academic Integrity:

        The university Academic Integrity policy is adopted for this class.

6. Standards for Written Work: Typographical Format

A. Assignments are submitted as printed word processor output or as attachments to e-mail sent as follows:

   To: JohnDurrett@txstate.edu

   From: Last Name, First Name

   Subject: [CS4326 or CS5326]ID#[Chapter Number of Assignment]

B. The attached file is named as follows:
       Last Name[Optional First Name]#[Chapter Number].[ext]
C. The ext may be any of the following: doc, docx, rtf, txt, or any other format that is readable by Microsoft Word.   Do not use a name for the attached file that is not your last name. Do not zip the attached file. Any professional font of at least twelve points is used for the main text **except Times Roman**.
D. Page layout should be as follows:
   1. Top and Bottom Margins: No more than 1", no less than ½".
   2. Left and Right Margins: No more than 1", mo less than ½".
   3. Page numbers are placed at the bottom of all pages and indicate the number of the current page and the total number of pages, for example "Page X of N."
   4. A running header consisting or you name and identification of the assignment should be placed on all pages as follows:
       1. Last Name, First Name ID#[Chapter Number of Assignment]
   5. Pages should be double-spaced.
E. Unless otherwise instructed all assignments are limited to no more than five pages, excluding figures, tables, pictures or other non-text items.

Standards for Written Work: Style

   A.   Generally, technical papers are written in present and/or past tense rather than future tense. Rather than writing "The users will see the display." Use "The user sees the display." Or "The user saw the   display."

   B.   Use active voice (subject of sentence acts on the object of the sentence) to create more concise expression of your ideas.

   C.   Use of third person, plural results in eliminating problems with pronoun agreement. For example: users (subject) they, them, their (pronouns), rather than user

(subject) he or she (pronouns).

D.   Use first person when you are making a statement or observation but rather than using "I" it is preferable to write "this writer or this observer".

E.   Avoid vague or general terms: like, neat, cool, hard, easy, these, things, stuff, just like, their, it, etc.

F.   Avoid past tense of the verb "to get".

G.   Avoid redundancies as "refer back" or "completely done" or "really unique" instead say simply "refer", "completed" or "unique".

H.   Check subject and verb agreement carefully when performing grammatical check.

I.   Spell check your final document but remember Spell check does not detect improper word usage such as in the following sentence

   "It is now the time to delete the file."

   "It is not the time to delete the file."

J.   Always read your paper aloud about one hour after completing. This technique improves your spoken and written style however, professional papers do not use colloquialisms often found in spoken or conversational English.

K.   Have another person in the class read your paper, if possible a native speaker of English.

L.   Assume your reader is knowledgeable of technology, computer science and interaction design.

M.   Define all abbreviations or acronyms after first usage.

N.   Avoid the use of complex sentence structure by using short, to-the-point sentences as are used in industry.

O.   Remember to answer all of the questions but avoid using the questions verbatim. Instead, use the question as a declarative sentence to introduce your answer.

P.   When your paper is returned, read the comments of the grader carefully, so that you can eliminate the identified errors. It is very frustrating to your instructor and grader to continue to correct identical errors on each paper you submit.

Q.   Avoid excessive use of the indefinite pronoun "it".

R.   Do not use colloquialisms or contractions.

S.   Do not end a sentence with a preposition.