



## **Develop: Evaluation: Cognitive Walkthrough**



Anita Sarma  
([anita.sarma@oregonstate.edu](mailto:anita.sarma@oregonstate.edu))

## Double Diamond: **Develop**

Objective: Ideate and prototype multiple potential solutions

Method : Ideation, prototyping, **evaluation**, iteration

Class: Storyboarding, low-fi prototype, **Cognitive Walkthrough**

Outcome: prototypes or preliminary solutions that can be tested and iterated upon..

# Evaluation

- How it's done?
  - Analytical
    - Guidelines, heuristics, theory – without real users
    - We'll cover: Cognitive walkthrough, Heuristic evaluation
  - Empirical
    - Based on data
    - We'll cover: Usability Study
- When it's done?
  - Formative (early stages, what is still needed?)
  - Summative (at the end, did it work?)

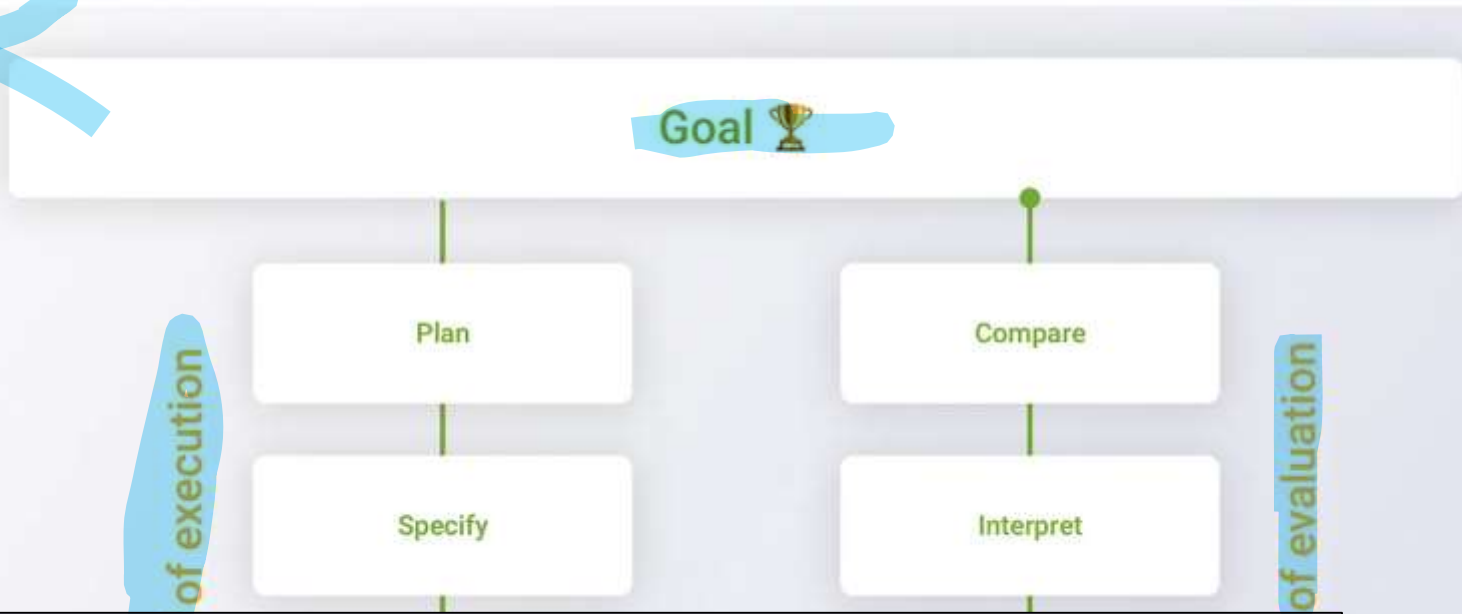
# Cognitive Walkthroughs

A thick yellow vertical bar is positioned to the left of the title. A yellow arrow points upwards from the bottom of this bar towards the word 'Walkthroughs'.

# Cognitive Walkthrough

- Inspection method where evaluators work through a series of tasks and ask a set of questions from the perspective of a new or infrequent user.
  - Learnability of the system
  - Create a persona of the user

# Norman's Action Cycle: The 7 stages of action

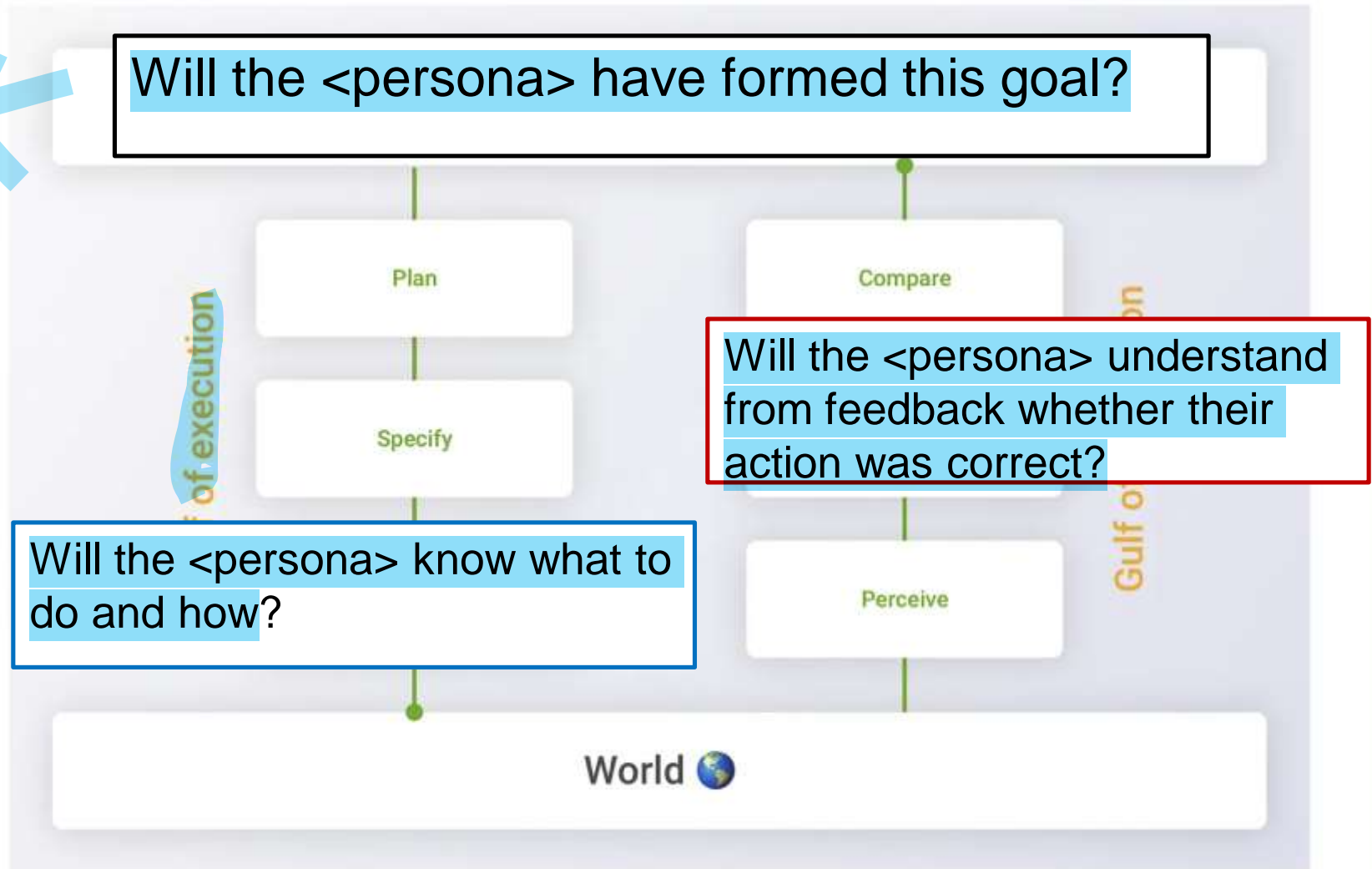


**Visceral:** the subconscious reaction to aesthetics

**Behavioural:** the subconscious usability of something

**Reflective:** the conscious rationalisation and intellectualisation

# Norman's Action Cycle: The 7 stages of action



# Cognitive Walkthrough

- Briefing session for designers / experts
  - Identify characteristics of user and task
- Evaluation period of 1-2 hours where:
  - Experts (3 is ideal)
  - “walkthrough the UI” answering questions (next slide)
  - Identify issues that a new user would face and why
  - Debrief session to prioritize problems to fix
- Drawbacks
  - Takes time to “walkthrough” each action
  - Designers may get defensive about choices



# How to do Cognitive Walkthrough

- Setup
  - The persona of your user
  - What is the use case (task/goal) and (sub)goal for the user to complete the task
  - What actions you (designer) expect the user to follow to complete the goal

# How to do Cognitive Walkthrough

- Answer three questions: [Yes/No/Maybe] [Why][Where]
  - Will the <persona> have formed this goal?
  - Will the <persona> know what to do and how?
  - Will the <persona> understand from feedback whether their action was correct?

# How to do Cognitive Walkthrough

- Record the answers but also:
  - Assumptions about what would cause the problems and why
  - Notes about side issues
  - Notes about possible solutions
- Example walkthrough next
  - Download Media from Canvas

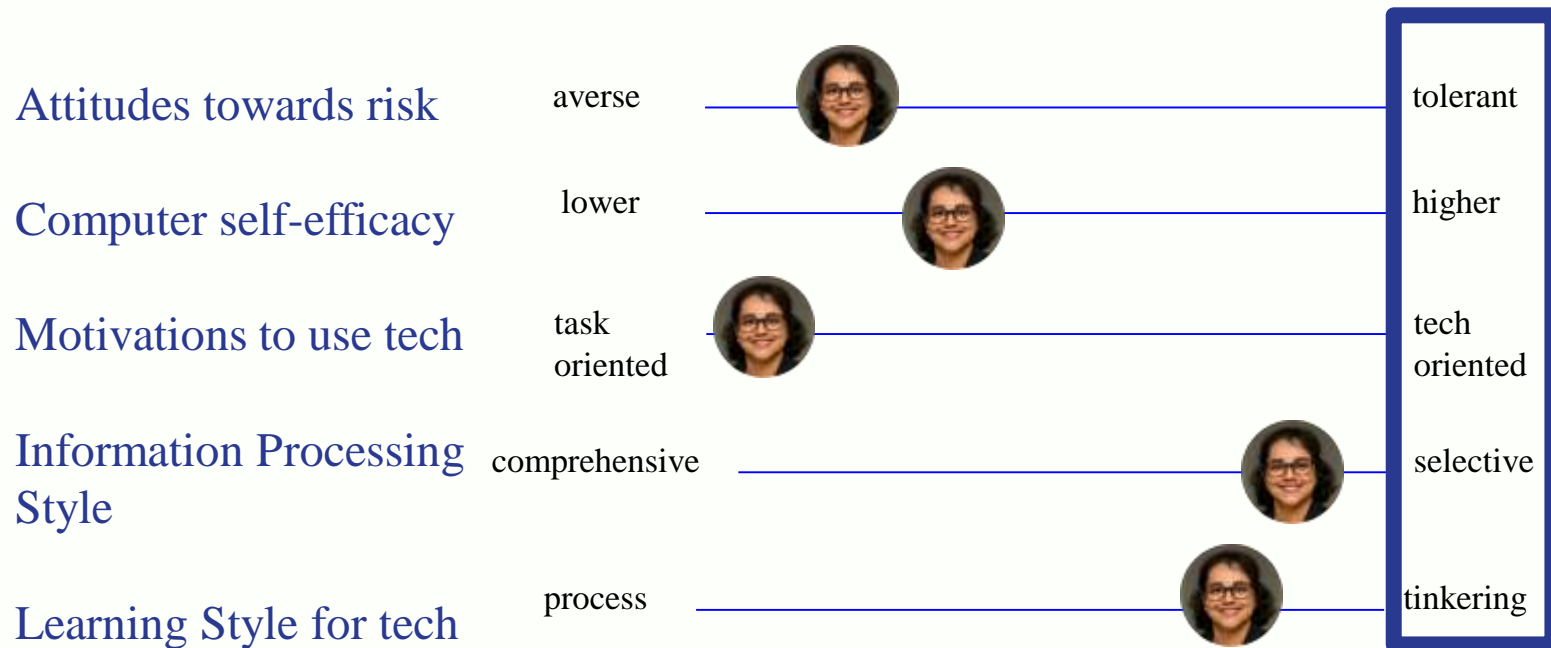
# Setting up for Cognitive Walkthrough: Notes

- Download cognitive walkthrough materials from Gdrive
- Read Notes on CW
- Pick your persona: Abi or Dav
  - Here: Abi (read through the exp + cog styles)
- Pick our roles:
  - Dr. A facilitator, Driver; Summit: recorder + evaluator; All: evaluators
- Pick out subgoal, Action list
  - Pick the task you have selected for your design sketch
  - Here: Download Media from Canvas
- Perform Cognitive Walkthrough
  - Walk through use case
  - Perform Debrief

# Inclusive Technology: cognitive styles

## Cognitive Diversity, *i.e. variations in cognitive styles*

*diverse ways users perceive, process, and interact with information & technology, as well as their approach to problem-solving*



Burnett, M., Stumpf, S., Macbeth, J., Makri, S., Beckwith, L., Kwan, I., ... & Jernigan, W. (2016). GenderMag: A method for evaluating software's gender inclusiveness. *Interacting with computers*, 28(6), 760-787.

# Abi (Abigail/Abishek)



- 55 years old
- Employed as a Instructor
- Lives in Eugene, OR

Abi has always liked music. When she is on her way to work in the morning, she listens to music that spans a wide variety of styles. But when she arrives at work, she turns it off, and begins her day by *scanning all her emails first to get an overall picture before answering any of them.* (This extra pass takes time but seems worth it.) Some nights she exercises or stretches, and sometimes she likes to play computer puzzle games like Sudoku.

## Background and Skills

Abi works as a part-time instructor. She is comfortable with the technologies she uses regularly, but she just moved to this employer 1 week ago, and the software systems are new to her.

Abi has never taught using Canvas before or have experience in flipped classroom She likes Math and knows how to think with numbers. She is confident making slides in power point and paper-based grading.

In her free time, she also enjoys working with numbers and logic. she especially likes working out puzzles and puzzle games, either on paper or on the computer.

## Motivations and Attitudes

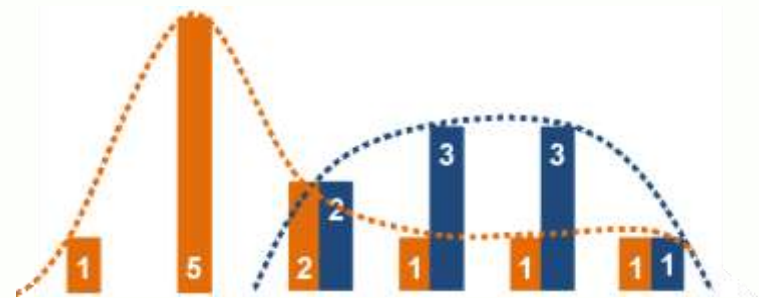
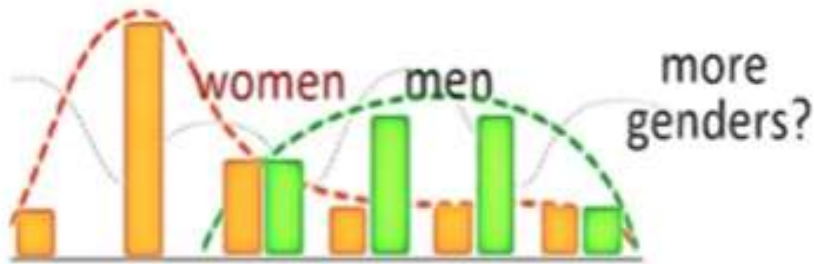
- **Motivations:** Abi uses technologies to accomplish her tasks. She learns new technologies if and when she needs to, but prefers to use methods she is already familiar and comfortable with, to keep her focus on the tasks she cares about.
- **Computer Self-Efficacy:** Abi has lower self confidence than her peers about doing unfamiliar computing tasks. If problems arise with her technology, she often blames herself for these problems. This affects whether and how she will persevere with a task if technology problems have arisen.
- **Attitude toward Risk:** Abi's life is a little complicated and she rarely has spare time. So she is risk averse about using unfamiliar technologies that might need her to spend extra time on them, even if the new features might be relevant. She instead performs tasks using familiar features, because they're more predictable about what she will get from them and how much time they will take.

## Attitude to Technology

- **Information Processing Style:** Abi tends towards a comprehensive information processing style when she needs to gather more information. So, instead of acting upon the first option that seems promising, she gathers information comprehensively to try to form a complete understanding of the problem before trying to solve it. Thus, her style is "burst-y"; first she reads a lot, then she acts on it in a batch of activity.
- **Learning: by Process vs. by Tinkering:** When learning new technology, Abi leans toward process-oriented learning, e.g., tutorials, step-by-step processes, wizards, online how-to videos, etc. She doesn't particularly like learning by tinkering with software (i.e., just trying out new features or commands to see what they do), but when she does tinker, it has positive effects on her understanding of the software.

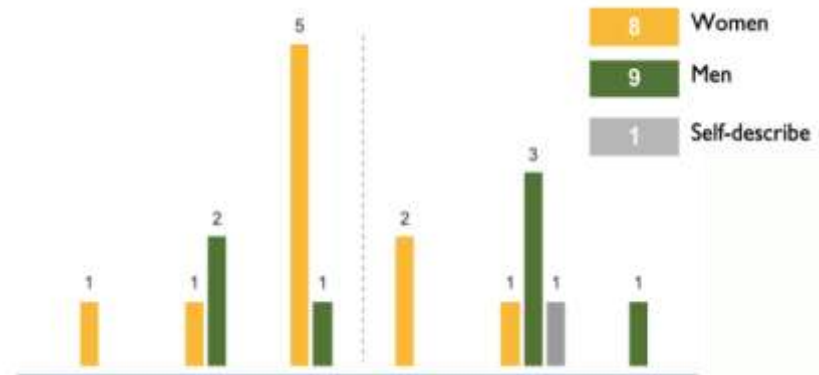
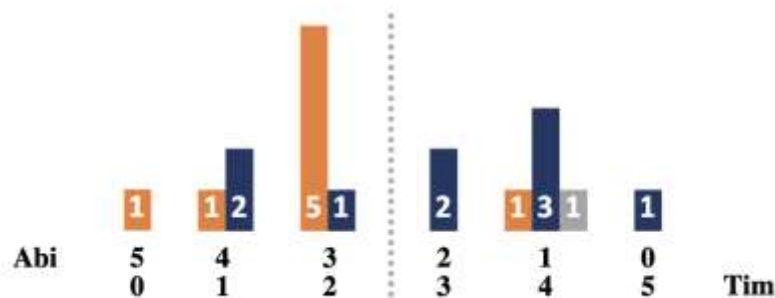
<sup>1</sup>Abi represents users with motivations/attitudes and information/learning styles similar to hers. For data on people similar to and different from Abi, see <http://gendermag.org/Foundations.html>

# Becomes a Gender Bias Problem



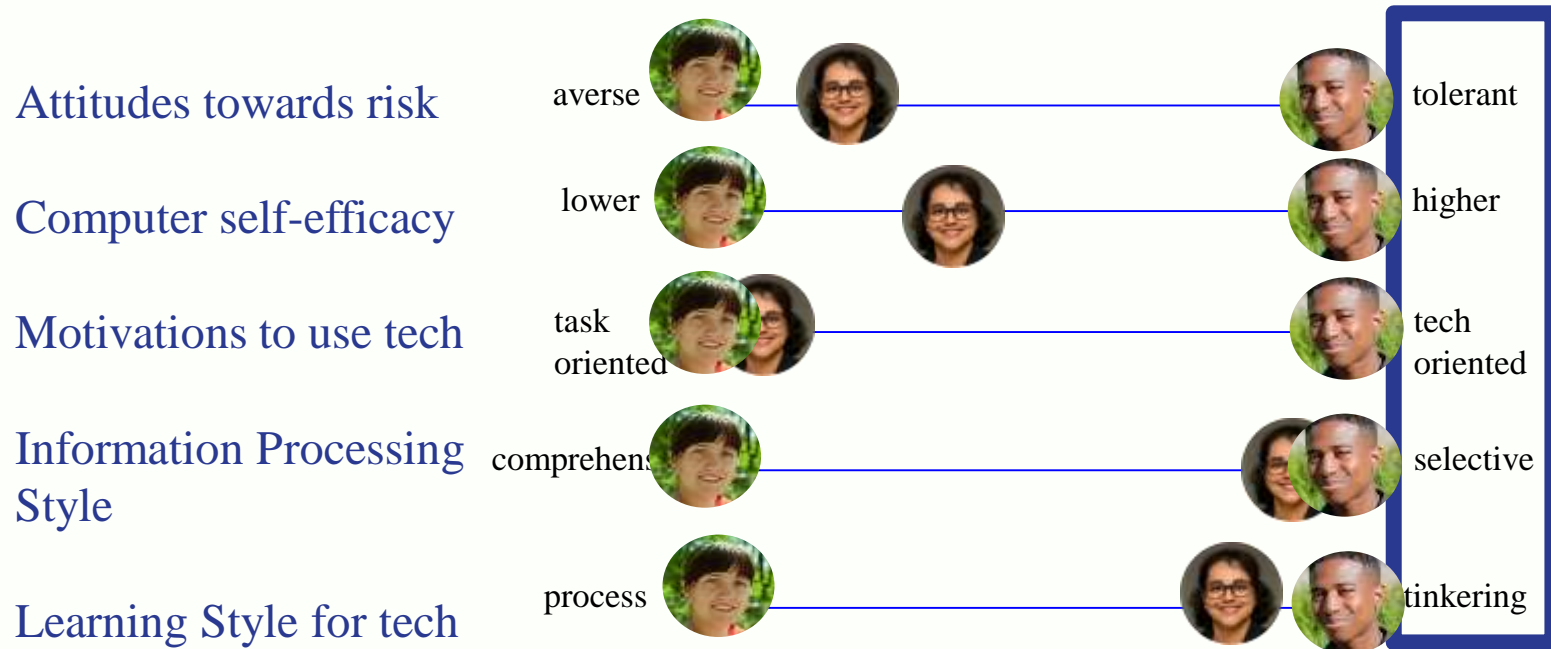
Individual differences in cognitive style values statistically cluster by gender;

*Hence it becomes a Gender Bias problem*



# Cognitive Diversity, *i.e. variations in cognitive styles*

*diverse ways users perceive, process, and interact with information & technology, as well as their approach to problem-solving*



Burnett, M., Stumpf, S., Macbeth, J., Makri, S., Beckwith, L., Kwan, I., ... & Jernigan, W. (2016). GenderMag: A method for evaluating software's gender inclusiveness. *Interacting with computers*, 28(6), 760-787.




## Use case and Subgoals


- Use Case: Download class recording to email to colleague.
- Subgoals:
  1. Find the class recording in Canvas
  2. Download the recording
  3. Email the recording

# Walkthrough using Google Docs


- Subgoal1: Find the class recording
  1. Go to MyMedia
- Subgoal 2: Download the media
  1. Click on the Edit icon
  2. Click on Downloads + available format
  3. Click on Save
  4. Click on go to Media
  5. Go to Downloads
  6. Click on the Arrow/down button




Oregon State University




Account




Dashboard




Courses




Calendar




Inbox




Resources



My Media



Commons



Help

Spring 2025

## Home

Announcements

Syllabus

Assignments

Poll Everywhere

Grades

People

Zoom

Files

Rubrics

Discussions

New Analytics

Media Gallery

OSU Instructor Tools

NameCoach

Quizzes 

Pages 

Collaborations 




































Modules 

Outcomes 

Settings

The class will be very hands-on and we will have in class activities everyday. We will use (activities. (You need to be logged in with Oregon State credentials to access the drive).

The **tentative schedule** is here. This gives the "big picture" of how the course fits together apt to shift.

Week	Class	Lecture Topic	Readings
Week 1	Mar 31	 <a href="#">Usability goals. Design Process</a> 	 <a href="#">Rogers, Ch. 1.6.1</a>   <a href="#">Usability Goals</a>  <a href="#">NN/g video on Usability</a> 
	Apr 2	 <a href="#">Intro to GenAI/prompt Engineering</a> 	<a href="#">Double Diamond design Process</a>  <a href="#">10 basic AI words</a> 
Week 2	Apr 7	 <a href="#">Contextual Inquiry: Observations &amp; Interview</a> 	Rogers, Ch. 9.3.1.  <a href="#">Who are the Users?</a>   Article by NN/g: <a href="#">Contextual Inquiry</a>   Rogers, 7.6.  <a href="#">Observation</a>  
	Apr 9	 <a href="#">Personas and User Journey</a> 	NN/g articles: <a href="#">Affinity Diagramming</a>  , <a href="#">Personas</a> ,  <a href="#">Thematic analysis</a>  NN/g User journey articles: <a href="#">1</a>  and <a href="#">2</a> 
Week 3	Apr 14	 <a href="#">Design Principles</a> 	Rogers, Ch. 1.6.3.  <a href="#">Design Principles</a>  NN/g articles: <a href="#">Mental models</a>  , <a href="#">UX Gulf</a> 
	Apr 14	 <a href="#">Ideation</a> 	Career Foundry article: <a href="#">Ideation</a> 

# My Canvas Dashboard



Account



Dashboard



Courses



Calendar



Inbox



Resources



Commons



My Media



Help



Anita Sarma's Pr

Notifications

Profile

Files

Settings

Shared Content

NameCoach  
Recording Tool

Folio


Qualtrics


My Studio Sites


My Media


QR for Mobile Login


Global  
Announcements


  
Oregon State University


  
Account


  
Dashboard


  
Courses


  
Calendar

  
Inbox

  
Resources

  
Commons

  
My Media

  
Help

Anita Sarma

## My Media



My recycle bin

My Analytics

Watch List

Search My Media



Filters >



Add New

ACTIONS

All Fields Creation Date - Descending



56:47

### Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room



Zoom Recording ID: 9498546940 UUID: ILDPy1FzQW6YiOrxyrCLew== Meeting  
Time: 2024-03-17 04:53:37pmGMT

Private

Owner • on March 17th, 2024



### Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting



Anita Sarma

## My Media

  My recycle bin  My Analytics  Watch List

 Search My Media 

Filters >

All Fields ▾ Creation Date - Descending ▾



Add New ▾

ACTIONS ▾



### Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room

Zoom Recording ID: 9498546940 UUID: ILDPy1FzQW6YiOrxycLew== Meeting  
Time: 2024-03-17 04:53:37pmGMT

Private

Owner • on March 17th, 2024



### Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting



# Walkthrough using Google Docs

  
Oregon State University

  
Account

  
Dashboard

  
Courses

  
Calendar

  
Inbox

  
Resources

  
Commons

  
My Media

  
Help

Anita Sarma

[← Back to Media Page](#)

## Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room



### Basic Info

Creator: Anita Sarma

Owner: Anita Sarma

Media Entry ID: 1\_jpr4c5b2

Media Type: Video

Publish Status: Private

Creation date:  
March 17th, 2024 6:39 PM GMT

Update date:  
April 28th, 2024 11:59 PM GMT

Media asset update date:  
March 17th, 2024 6:41 PM GMT

[Launch Editor](#)

[Details](#) [Languages](#) [Publish](#) [Options](#) [Collaboration](#) [Thumbnails](#) [Downloads](#) [Captions](#) [Attachments](#) [Timeline](#) [Replace Media](#)

Name:  
(Required)

Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room

Description:

Black

**Bold**


*Italic*

Underline



Zoom Recording ID: 9498546940 || ID: || DPu1FzQW6YiOrurCIaw== Meeting Time: 2024-03-17 04:53:37nmGMT

# Walkthrough using Google Docs




Oregon State University

- Account
- Dashboard
- Courses
- Calendar
- Inbox
- Resources
- Commons
- My Media
- Help

Anita Sarma

[← Back to Media Page](#)

## Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room



Sarma, Anita

**Basic Info**

Creator: Anita Sarma

Owner: Anita Sarma

Media Entry ID: 1\_jpr4c5b2

Media Type: Video

Publish Status: Private

Creation date:  
March 17th, 2024 6:39 PM GMT

Update date:  
April 28th, 2024 11:59 PM GMT







Media asset update date:  
March 17th, 2024 6:41 PM GMT

[Launch Editor](#)

**Details** Languages Publish Options Collaboration Thumbnails **Downloads** Captions Attachments Timeline Replace Media

Name:

Description: 

Black **Bold** *Italic* Underline      

Zoom Recording ID: 9498546940 || ID: || DPu1FzQW6YiOrurCIaw== Meeting Time: 2024-03-17 04:53:37nmGMT



Anita Sarma

## Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room



Details Languages Publish Options

Available Formats:

- ☐ High Quality
- ☐ Low Quality
- ☐ Audio Only

Save

Anita Sarma

## Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room



Details Languages Publish Options Collaboration

Available Formats:

- ☐ High Quality
- ☒ Low Quality
- ☐ Audio Only

Save

Go To Media

## Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room



Details Languages Publish Options Collaboration Thumbnails **Downloads**

Available Formats: ☐ High Quality  
☒ Low Quality  
☐ Audio Only

Save

Go To Media

The information was saved successfully



Account



Dashboard



Courses



Calendar



Inbox



Resources



Commons



My Media



Help

Anita Sarma



## Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room

From Anita Sarma March 17th, 2024

Details

Attachments

Download

Share

← Back

ACTIONS ▾





## Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room


From Anita Sarma March 17th, 2024

Details Attachments **Download** Share

← Back

ACTIONS ▾



Name	Size	Actions
Low Quality	(182.27 Mb)	



Anita Sarma

- Account
- Dashboard
- Courses
- Calendar
- Inbox
- Resources
- Commons
- My Media
- Help

Video player interface showing a video of Anita Sarma. The video title is "Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room". The video duration is 0:00 / 56:47. A "Save As" dialog box is open, showing the filename "Sarma,\_Anita\_s\_Personal\_Meeting\_" and the location "Downloads". The dialog box includes "Cancel" and "Save" buttons.

Sarma, Anita's Personal Meeting Room

From Anita Sarma March 17th, 2024

# Summary

- Walkthrough the UI in the shoes of your persona
  - First time user
- Is time consuming (but still less than user study)
  - Plan to evaluate the most risky/complex/new features through user tasks
  - Gets easier (and you can short circuit some obvious steps)
- Designers can become defensive

# Let's do one together - GenderMag

GenderMag is a specialized cognitive walkthrough

## Preparation

1. **Persona (lets use Abi cognitive styles)**
2. Use Case/Subgoals
3. Actions (Just in time or up front)
4. Setting up with the roles
  1. Facilitator: leads the discussion (Dr. Sarma)
  2. Driver: shares screen and interaction with prototype (Janita)
  3. Recorder: records evaluation response form (you)
  4. Evaluators: above roles + others in the team (you)