

# Interaction Design Final Presentation:

# **TA Portal**

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Sarah Chou  
5th year  
Fall 2019

# The Problem

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# The Problem: Outline

- Primary Users: CS1200 Fellows (TAs)
- Tasks: everything related to preparing for class
  - Reviewing lesson plans
  - Asking for advice on how to teach something
  - Putting in hours
  - Grading assignments
  - Taking attendance
- Goals: to be a great Fellow, assisting both the Advisor (with tasks, and giving current student perspectives) and serving the students as a supportive mentor

## The Problem: Outline (cont.)

- **Workflows**: use **Blackboard** for attendance and grading, use **Gmail** for receiving lesson plans and course documents, use **Khoury** website for inputting hours into timesheet, use **Facebook** to contact Fellows for replacements, use **Calendar** to keep track of appointments and special events... etc.
- **Pain Points**: too many applications to keep track of, no centralized platform for contacting people (other Fellows, Advisors)

# The Process

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# The 3 Most Helpful Assignments

1. 3 Digital Homepage Layouts (Week 10)
2. Clickable wireframes (Week 7)
3. Usability Test Findings (Week 9)

# 3 Digital Homepage Layouts

## CS 1200 porTAI



## What is CS1200?

CS1200 introduces students to the College of Computer and Information Science (CCIS) and begins their preparation for careers in the computing and information fields.

This class offers students an opportunity to learn how to thrive at Northeastern and within CCIS by developing academic, professional, and interpersonal skills. It covers the variety of careers available in the high-technology professions.

Students work in groups to create and deliver presentations on careers in the field. Prereq. Intended for freshmen in the College of Computer and Information Science (CCIS) and for freshmen who transfer into CCIS.

## Restrictions:

Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels:  
Undergraduate  
Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges:  
Khoury Coll of Comp Sciences

## What is a Fellow?

Fellows are teaching assistants for the CS1200 Leadership Skill Development course who are available to help first semester students adjust to university life.

Fellows in Khoury College of Computer Sciences serve as Teaching Assistants and mentors to the first-year students enrolled in CS1200.

The Fellows are carefully selected to represent the college and are passionate, dedicated, and motivated student leaders. They foster community development by supporting new students as they transition into Northeastern University and Khoury College.

The Fellow position is an excellent opportunity for upper-class students to further develop leadership skills, hands on teaching experience at the college level, and the opportunity to develop a professional working relationship with Academic Advisors.

## Past Quotes from Previous Fellows

*"Being a Fellow was great because I was able to help mentor first year students and teach them about resources that Northeastern University offers."* - Sarah, Khoury College Class of 2020, Computer Science and Cognitive Psychology

*"I love giving back to Khoury College by being a Fellow for CS1200. It has also helped me gain leadership skills by teaching some sections of the class"* - Megan, Khoury College Class of 2021, Computer Science and Business

*"My Fellow helped me figure out what major I wanted to be in, and was a great peer resource for this class. She helped me want to become a Fellow to help other first years figure out their transition to college"* - Jan, Khoury College Class of 2018, Computer Science and Environmental Science

## Interested in becoming a Fellow?

[Apply Here](#)



# Scrolling View



## What is CS1200?

CS1200 introduces students to the College of Computer and Information Science (CCIS) and helps their preparation for careers in the computing and information fields. This class offers students an opportunity to learn how to thrive at Northeastern and reflect CS1200's teaching students, professional, and entrepreneurial skills. It covers the range of careers available in the high technology professions. Students work in groups to create and deliver presentations on careers in the field. They are intended for freshmen in the College of Computer and Information Science (CCIS) and for freshmen who transfer into CCIS.



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Fellows are teaching assistants for the CS1200 Leadership Skill Development course who are available to help first semester students adjust to university life.

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Fellows are expected to attend every class for one section of the course, and participate in weekly planning meetings with the instructors. Additional responsibilities include: leading, teaching class discussion and activities, sharing information about personal experiences, leading programs/operational events, prodding taking attendance, and working with other Fellows as a team. The position requires a time commitment of around four hours per week.

The Fellow position is an excellent opportunity for upper class students to further develop leadership skills, learn on teaching experience at the college level, and the opportunity to develop a professional working relationship with Academic Advisors. The Fellow position is a collegial honor and only a small number of students are selected for this responsibility. Fellows are essential in promoting and supporting the program of CS 1200.



## Past Quotes from Previous Fellows

"Being a fellow was great because I was able to help mentor first year students and teach them about resources that Northeastern University offers." Sarah, Khoury College Class of 2020, Computer Science and Cognitive Psychology

"I am going back to Khoury College to bring a fellow for CS1200. It has also helped me gain leadership skills by teaching some sections of the class." Morgan, Khoury College Class of 2021, Computer Science and Business

"My fellow helped me figure out what major I wanted to be in, and was a great peer resource for this class. She helped me want to become a doctor and helped me figure out their transition to college." Jade, Khoury College Class of 2019, Computer Science and Environmental Science

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# Alternating View

Login

## CS 1200 porTAl

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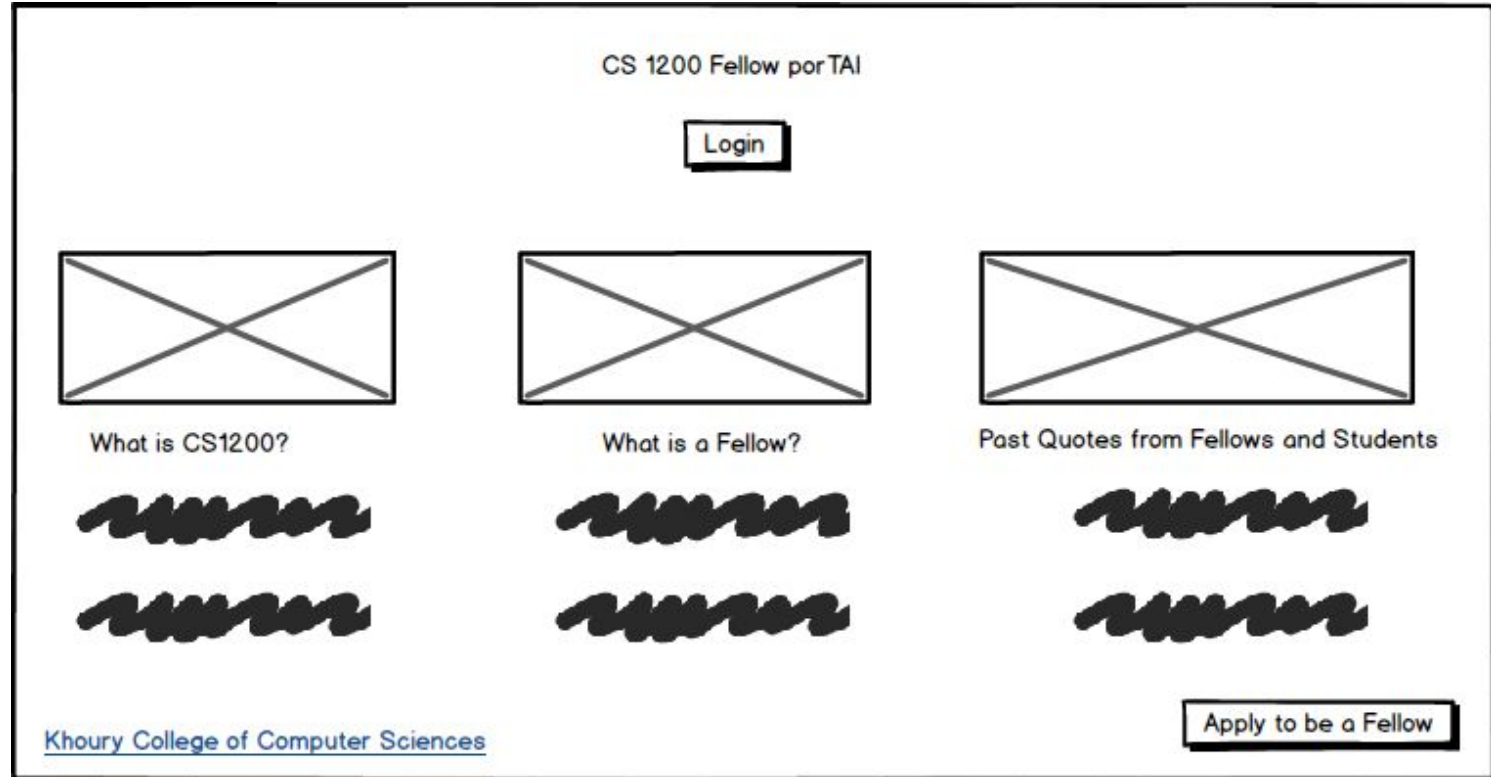
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### Interested in becoming a Fellow?

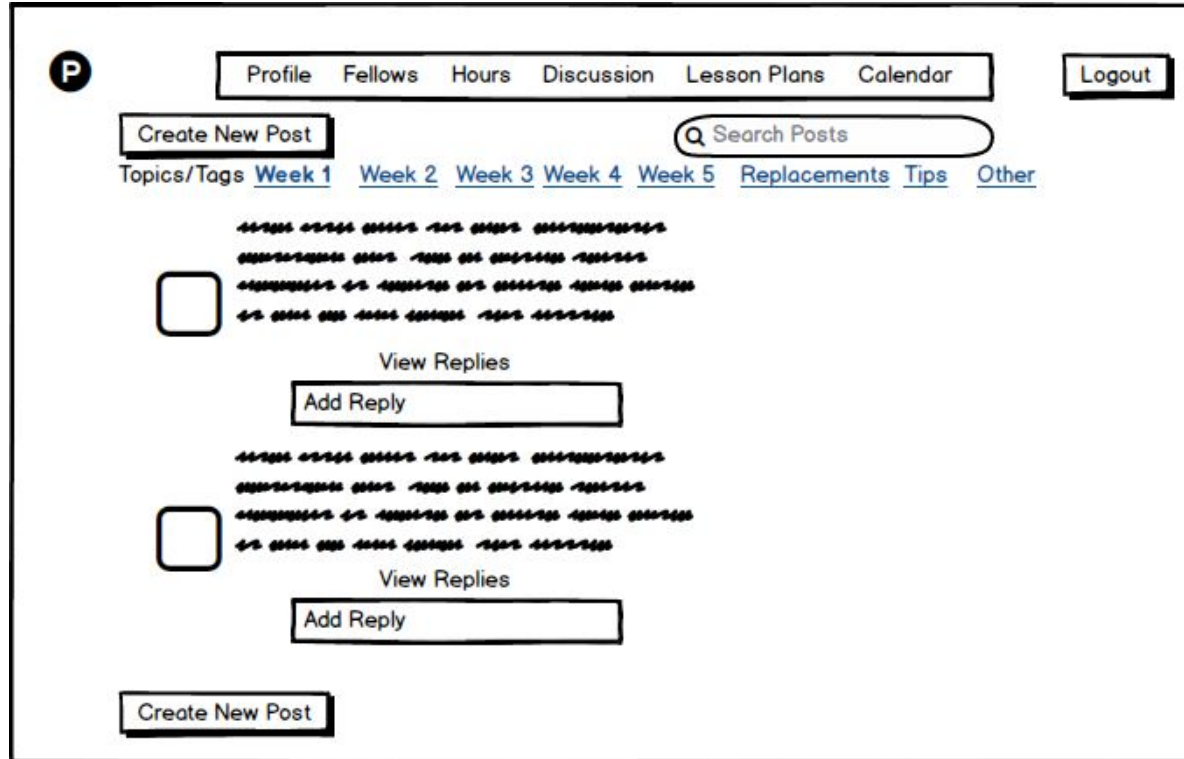
[Apply Here](#)

# Clickable Wireframes

# Clickable Wireframe: Anonymous View



# Clickable Wireframe: Discussion Board



# Clickable Wireframe: Searching in Discussion

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Profile   Fellows   Hours   Discussion   Lesson Plans   Calendar

Logout

Search results for "dolore"   Q "dolore"

Topics/Tags   [Week 1](#)   [Week 2](#)   [Week 3](#)   [Week 4](#)   [Week 5](#)   [Replacements](#)   [Tips](#)   [Other](#)

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View Replies

Add Reply

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View Replies

Add Reply

Create New Post

# Clickable Wireframe: Creating New Discussion Post

A clickable wireframe for a 'Create New Post' interface. The layout includes a top navigation bar with a profile icon (P) and links for Profile, Fellows, Hours, Discussion, Lesson Plans, and Calendar, alongside a Logout button. The main content area features a 'Create New Post' label and a 'Topic/Tags' dropdown menu. Below these is a large text input area containing placeholder text. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Back', 'Save as Draft', and 'Post'.

P

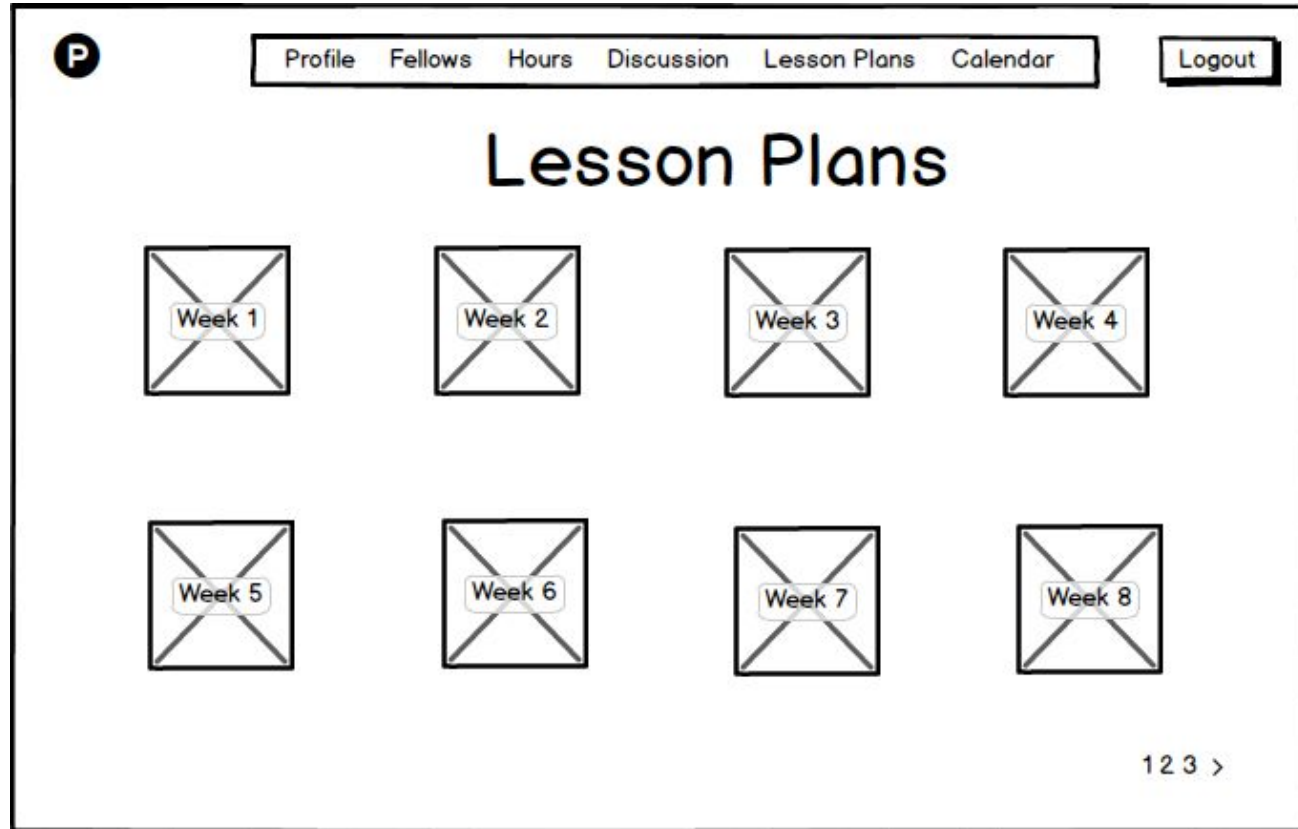
Profile Fellows Hours Discussion Lesson Plans Calendar Logout

Create New Post Topic/Tags ▼

Placeholder text for the discussion post content.

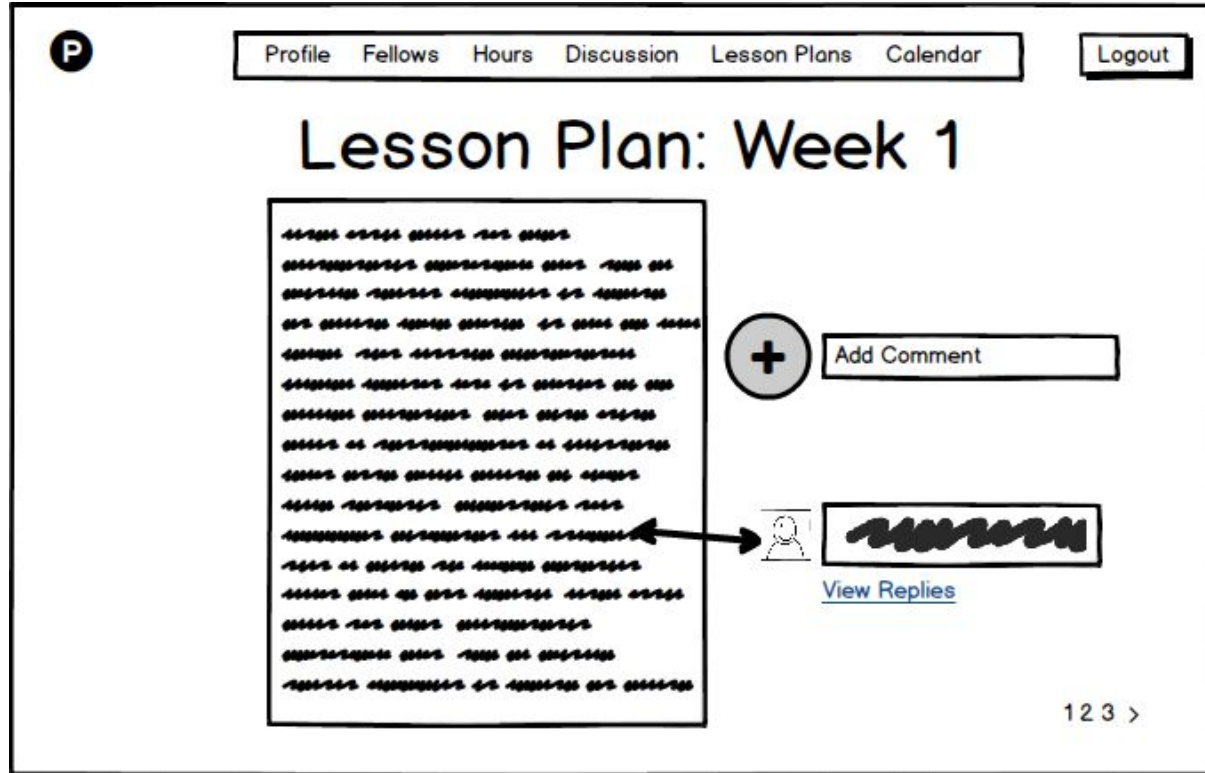
◀ Back Save as Draft Post

# Clickable Wireframe: Lesson Plan Overview





# Clickable Wireframe: Lesson Plan Detail Version



# Usability Test Findings

# Key Issues

- 2 participants, when asked to look for “tips from past fellows”, didn’t even log in to the website, and just looked at the landing page and decided to read the “Past Quotes from Fellows”
- Finding a replacement seemed to be the hardest task. None of the participants went directly to Discussion. The first two participants went to Hours and Calendar (because the task was phrased as “find replacement for next week”).
  - Changed “Hours” to “Timesheet” before testing 3rd participant
- Ambiguity about whether “Add Notes” in Lesson Plan is viewable by other users or just you
  - One participant tried to add a note to the lesson plan to see if anyone could replace her (instead of doing this in the Discussion Board)

# The Proposal

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Figma Prototype walking through Lesson Plan  
overview and Discussion Board