

## **Ten Usability Heuristics For Study App**

### **Visibility of System Status:**

For the discovery pages, the status is very easy to glean. The title of the page is outright labeled at the top, and even without that, it maintains the general form factor of a standard search engine page.

The home page, due to it not really requiring lots of navigatory information to find, is designed pretty well.

The thread page looks like the user might be lost as to where they are.

### **Match between System and the Real World:**

The thread page could have been labeled discussion forum instead

The “Discovery” pages could have been more aptly labeled as “Search” pages, because it more aptly describes their function.

Navigation or lack of navigation menu showing where you are in general makes it hard to fathom where in the web site you are especially in the yellow discovery pages

### **User Control and Freedom:**

The Home page escapes this issue by having no other pages to back out to, but the Thread and Discovery pages seem to lack obvious back buttons. This would make it difficult or impossible to return to previous pages without restarting the app.

Also the Thread page has no “post” or “save” or “submit” button to be seen. This means that this page seemingly relies on the knowledge that the enter key usually serves the same purpose as a post button. Due to the fact that some people *may* not have this knowledge, a more traditional button should be included.

**Consistency and Standards:**

Discovery and search usually mean different things on sites, but are seemingly used interchangeably and can confuse users especially on the discovery pages.

**Error Prevention:**

Out of all the views present, the only one that may cause a form of error that we can see is the Thread page. This page could cause an error in the event of a user writing a post, but attempting to switch to another page before posting it. In this event, it would be necessary to either automatically save the draft and move the user to the next page, or prompt the user with a standard “save don’t save cancel” pop up prompt.

**Recognition Rather than Recall:**

The only real issue that arises here would be a result of The Doorway Effect, where you load up the app and forget what class you were planning on entering. On the Discovery page this is relatively taken care of with the “Take a look” button which would take you to a list of new and recommended courses. This problem could possibly be problematic

**Flexibility and Efficiency of Use:**

Seeing as how this subject is hard to note on without seeing a functional version of the application, it’s hard to mount any criticism. I would assume the thread page would contain shortcuts relevant to most text editors, but to be honest I can’t think of many if any situations other than that that shortcuts would even be useful in.

**Aesthetic and Minimalist Design:**

It has a good aesthetic overall but it does have some accessibility issues with the Home, thread, and what we offer titles. Also, there are accessibility issues with the search items. There is also a stunning resemblance to the subways website which could be seen as a problem.

**Recognize, Diagnose, and Recover from Errors:**

The layout and lack of options make it difficult for users to come across errors. For example there are no submit or save options or anything to reply to a thread.

**Help and Documentation:**

There should be a help button in the thread page, just in case users that are not familiar with using them have a general idea of how to navigate the page. There should also be a help button somewhere on the home menu for easier navigation throughout the site.