Professor Cole's Class
ID: yxz157830
02/03/2022

CS6326 Human-Computer Interactions

Spring 2022

Homework 1

I'm sure you have looked at coursebook by now. For reference, it's coursebook.utdallas.edu. But have you really examined it and thought about how the user experience works? Based upon what you have learned about design so far, answer the following questions about the design of coursebook, looking at it with an eye toward design and usability. Keep your answers short and to the point but include enough explanation to answer the question. For questions with a numerical answer, just the number is sufficient.

1. Critique the color scheme. It uses school colors, but is it readable? Any issues? (4 points)?

   Color can improve user interfaces. The primary color used on the website such as red can draw majority users' attention to certain critical information. Black text is readable with green background color and white text is readable with orange background color. The overall design is great and clear, but the issues could be it can be hard to read by some red-green color blindness student. They will see the red/green color as orange which will make the whole page looks orange and hard to distinguish important information.

2. How many sets of tabs are there on first screen that comes up? (Find them all for 2 points)

   Total of 4 sets of tabs. 1. Couse Tools 2. Course Book/Syllabus Policies/Syllabus Templates 3.Class Search/Guided search/my classes/my events/instruction modalities 4. Search results

3. Does Coursebook follow the rule of telling you where you are in the navigation? (2 points)

   Yes, every tab has their label indicating what the content would be in the page, and while we click on it, the color of its background will change to white compared to the grey in original. So, we know which navigation we are. Also, when you move the mouse to the specific tab, an underline will appear in the tab, so it will also help us to find what we looking for. After click the tab, the pages also show guided messages and labels to identify where we are and what should we do for the specific content.

4. Can you navigate the “guided search” tab without using a mouse, using only the keyboard? Explain. (2 points)

   We have to click on the “guided search” tab to navigate. Keyboard is not giving the response to select on the tab, but if the default page before we leave the page is “guided search”, then the next time we use the url: coursebook.utdallas.edu will show the “guided search” as the first page, so we don’t need to use the mouse in that circumstance.

5. If there is anything odd about the way the drop-down lists work on the “guided search” tab? If so, describe what might be the problem. If not, explain why not. This may be different for different browsers. I did my testing with Firefox. (4 points)

   My testing is via the Google browser. Firstly, the drop-down lists are easy to use with one click, the users won’t take too much time to figure out how to use the interface. Labels are all on the left of the textbox which is good for drop-down lists to be view by the users. One of the issues could be the textboxes are the same size, which does not give users clue about how many characters they can type in. The label is kind too small to align with the drop-down box. Users might make a mistake about finding the wrong categories. The other issue is even though the content inside the drop box is sorted from A-Z, some categories contain too many labels and will be hard for user to find what they want one by one, but the good thing is user could use keyboard to type in the first character of what they want to search and navigate content more quickly.

6. Explain how to find all of the prerequisites for CS4384 (that is, follow the chain of courses) using coursebook, and list all of the prerequisites for that course, back to a course that has no prerequisites (such as CS1336.) Record how many clicks it took you to find them all. (6 points)

To find all the prerequisites for CS4384, firstly we must search CS4384 class under “class search” tab. Type in “CS4384” and click “Search Class” (1st click), and then the class information will appear under the tab “search results”. We will looking for the term 22S which means Spring of 2022, and click on the class detail. (2nd click). Under the “Enrollment Reqs” section and found out that CS3305 with a grade of C or better is required. Secondly, we must search CS3305 class under “class search” tab. Type in “CS3305” and click “Search Class” (3rd click), and click(4^{th} click) on class detail under term 22S, we found CS2305 and MATH 2414 or MATH 2419 are required. And repeat the above search for CS2305(6^{th} click), we found MATH2312 or MATH 2413 is required. Repeat above search for MATH 2414 (8^{th} click) found MATH 2413 with C- is required. We figure out the class MATH 2413 can be the pre-required class for both CS2305 and MATH2414. So we could go to search MATH2413(10^{th} click) can found out MATH2306 or MATH2312 is required. Looking for Math2306(12^{th} click) and found out MATH1314 is required. Looking for MATH1314(14^{th} click), we found out STAT1342 is required. Looking for STAT1342(16^{TH} click), found out MATH1314 can be the co-requirement with the class. So that we finish the search, and the total number of click is 16.