Human-Computer Interaction

Course Description
This is a graduate level survey of the field of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) focusing on design strategies for making software usable by real-world people for doing real-world work. Topics include the role of HCI in the software product life cycle, task analysis of the user's work, architectures for human-computer dialogues, new and traditional approaches to user interface design, user interface standards.

Pre-requisite
Data Structures
You should be proficient in at least one programming language (high skill) and knowledgeable of programming in another (adequate skill). You should be proficient in composing Web pages.

Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the range of user issues involved in determining a technology's human and organizational acceptability
- Use a scenario-based design process
- Make a coherent case for the adoption of user-centered principles in the design, implementation and use of information technology
- Describe and distinguish the variety of user-centered inputs to the design process
- Be capable of identifying and applying the scientific basis of HCI to theoretical and practical issues
- Develop valid and reliable usability evaluation plans for an information technology

Required Course Text

Course Requirements
Come to class everyday the class meets
Read the assigned chapters and papers before coming to class
Ask questions of material you do not understand
If I cannot explain the answers to your satisfaction, ask again by appointment
Demonstrate integrity, maturity, and ethical behavior

Grading Policy

Your course grade will be decided on your performance in the quizzes, programming assignments and exams. The distribution of points is as follows:

- Exams 40%
- Assignments 20%
- Research Paper Presentation 10%
- Project 30%

Submitted Work

- Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date in hard copy and they should also be uploaded to BB before class.
- Assignments must be submitted in a neat computer-generated format. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted.
- Start working on your assignments early; last day questions that show carelessness will not be responded to.
- It is always recommended to keep your graded work.

Exams and Quizzes

- Exams and quizzes are NOT open-book unless instructed otherwise.
- Not all quizzes times will be announced; pop-up quizzes are likely.
- NO makeup exams or quizzes will be allowed unless I have agreed prior to the exam or quiz time and been provided with official supporting documents.

Class Participation

Class discussions and information provided in class are considered regular course material; it is your responsibility to take appropriate notes. You are expected to attend lectures and actively participate in class discussions. I will be frequently taking attendance. You are also required to turn off your cell phone and/or pager in class and pay attention to class discussions. Use of laptops and other electronic devices is restricted to taking notes. Unethical behavior will result in final grade deduction or an automatic F.

Project

The project can be a programming project (with a final report on the project), a research paper or a survey paper. An in-class presentation is also required for any of the above. All projects must be approved by the instructor. Additional details on the project will be available later. The final project or research paper or survey report will be due on December 5, 2014.

Course Policies

Attendance/Tardiness
You must attend all classes. You are responsible for any materials covered or handed out or announcements made for the tests, quizzes, and homework assignments in your absence. Records of your attendance will be maintained and reported to the university. Students found missing classes without the instructor's permission will be automatically withdrawn from the course. Students are responsible for all materials covered in class and assigned. Should a student be absent from class, it is his/her responsibility to get the notes, etc. for that missed class. More important, should there be assignments, it is the student’s responsibility to obtain such assignments. No excuse will be accepted for assignments not turned in because the student was absent when it was due.

Late Work and Make-up Exams

All the assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. If the student is absent on the assignment due date, it is the student's responsibility to make sure that the assignment is submitted on the designated date. An assignment that is turned in after the class on the due date is considered one day late. There is a penalty for late submissions. Late assignments will be counted 20% off for each day after the due time. No credit will be given if an assignment is submitted after 5 days. If you have not completed your assignment by the due date, you should submit the work you have done for partial credit. No work will be accepted once the graded work has been returned or the solution has been disclosed to the class, except for unusual circumstances.

Exams must be taken on the hour they are scheduled. In the event, if you cannot attend the class to take the exam due to some emergency or some unavoidable situation (such as serious illness, death in the family, participation in university sports, religious observations, and so on) you must notify me as soon as possible before the exam and also you must validate your absence by providing me a document (e.g., with a letter from your doctor).

Extra Credit

None

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage

Set your cell phone/electronic device in silent mode when you are in class.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.)
In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a score of 0 (zero) for the work or dismissal from the course and the Dean of Students office will be notified. No copying from another student's work, of any class, is allowed. It is the student's duty to allow no one to copy his or her work. Anyone found cheating in the exams will receive an automatic F for the course.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 7, 2014 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Preferred methods of scholarly citations**

All referenced material used in a paper or project report must be properly acknowledged and cited. Use APA style for all scholarly citations.

**Grade Appeals**

A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is on the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, consult Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01 Student Grade Appeal Procedures (http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school or the College of Science and Engineering Dean’s Office.

**Disabilities Accommodations**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of
their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Tentative Course Schedule (Subject to change)**

| Week 1 | Introduction  
| Chapter 1: What is Interaction Design |
| Week 2 | Chapter 2: Understanding and Conceptualizing Interaction  
| Chapter 3: Understanding Users |
| Week 3 | Chapter 4: Designing for Collaboration and Communication  
| Chapter 5: Understanding How Interfaces Affect Users |
| Week 4 | Chapter 6: The Process of Interaction Design  
| Chapter 7: Identifying Needs and Establishing Requirements |
| Week 5 | Chapter 8: Design, Prototyping, and Construction  
| **Exam 1** |
| Week 6 | Chapter 9: User-centered Approaches to Interaction Design  
| Research Paper Presentation And Discussion |
| Week 7 | Chapter 10: Introducing Evaluation  
| Research Paper Presentation And Discussion |
| Week 8 | Chapter 11: An Evaluation Framework  
| Research Paper Presentation And Discussion |
| Week 9 | Chapter 12: Observing Users  
| **Exam 2** |
| Week 10 | Chapter 13: Asking Users and Experts  
| Research Paper Presentation And Discussion |
| Week 11 | Chapter 14: Testing and Modeling Users  
| Research Paper Presentation And Discussion |
| Week 12 | Chapter 15: Design and Evaluation in the Real World: Communicators and Advisory Systems  
| Research Paper Presentation And Discussion |
| Week 13 | Research Paper Presentation And Discussion |
| Week 14 | Project Presentation |
| Week 15 | Final Exam |

**Note:** This syllabus represents a general plan for the course. Deviations from this syllabus may be necessary during the semester and changes will be announced in class.