

HCI Foundations

Course Prefix and Number: CS6755

Course Name: HCI Foundation

Instructor: DiSalvo, Carl

Course Description

This course will teach you processes and techniques for designing computational things people use. We will discuss the capabilities and limits of computers and other related systems, and discuss how that affects design and implementation decisions.

Learning Objectives

By the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain core interaction design concepts.
- Describe the capabilities and limitations of computers and other related systems, and how that affects design and implementation decisions.
- Utilize design strategies and tools to ideate, brainstorm and implement useful, usable, and engaging interactions.

Grading

Assessment Philosophy: HCI is a very broad, interdisciplinary domain. There is simply a lot of information that an HCI professional needs to know and understand in order to be effective. It takes a number of different sources, a number of different types of learning to gather this breadth of material. Not everything can be covered in the lectures or discussed in class--reading journals and books is necessary. Not everything can be learned in books either--practice, field work, and team projects are called for. In order to assess your learning of this range of material, it is necessary to have a multitude of assessment techniques. This includes individual and team work; conceptual knowledge and rote memorization; calculations and aesthetic judgments; written assignments and exams. It is all important.

Students are expected to do their own work at all times and to follow the university's codes of academic conduct and honor code. Cases of suspected inappropriate collaboration or cheating will be immediately forwarded to the Dean of Student Affairs, and will be pursued to resolution. This is an unpleasant process for all involved, so please do not put yourself in this situation.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner--this entails showing up for classes and exams at the appointed time. Late make-up exams will not be given. If some form of prior commitment or circumstance prevents a student from taking an exam at the given time, PRIOR arrangements (including documentation where appropriate) should be made with the instructor.

Letter grades are determined almost entirely based on a semester-long accumulation of points, weighed in percentage as stated for each component as summarized below. Typically, the standard percent-to-letter conversion for graduate courses will be applied, such that 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, less than 60% = F.

Prior experience suggests that work in this course will generally fall into one of four categories:

- A: Superior, striking, or unexpected pieces of work with excellent effort demonstrating a mastery of the subject matter and a thoughtful use of concepts discussed in class; work that shows imagination, clarity of presentation, originality, creativity, effort, and attention to detail.
- B: Good work demonstrating a capacity to use the subject matter, with adequate preparation and clear presentation.
- C: Work that is adequate but that would benefit from increased effort or preparation.
- D: Work that needs significantly more effort.

Expectations of quality work showing mastery of course material will increase with every assignment, culminating in very high expectations for the final deliverables.

Re-Grade Requests

Students can request a re-grade of any assignment. To do so, students must submit a written justification for the request to the instructor and TA via email, indicating which aspect of the grade you disagree with, describing succinctly and clearly why you believe the grade is incorrect. Please be aware that re-grade requests could result in a lower grade being assigned. **Any request must be made within 2 business days following the date that the instructor returns the graded material.** For example, if the material is returned on a Wednesday, you have until end of day Friday to request a re-grade.

Attendance

Attendance in class is **required**.

You get 3 absences this semester - no questions asked.

After your 4th absence, you will lose 1/2 a letter grade from your final score.

After your 5th absence you will lose a full letter grade from your final score.

After your 6th absence you will lose two full letter grades from your final score.

Class Participation

Full participation in this course is a critical part of your learning experience. Your contributions to class discussions, exercises, and your classmates' projects is essential. As such, you are expected to come to each class fully prepared (having read all course readings and other pre-assigned content, having made attempts to understand the material, being an active contributor to your team project, critiquing others' projects, etc.). You should be ready to discuss the material covered in the lectures and reading.

Canvas

We will use Canvas to post announcements, course content, the semester schedule, the syllabus, lecture slides, and for homework submissions.

Staying up-to-date

Each week, summary announcements will be posted to Canvas with essential information. Paying attention to these announcements, you will help you stay up-to-date with what is happening in the course.

Recording

You may not record this class without permission.

The course content, recordings, exams, and materials provided by the instructor in this course are for the use of the students enrolled in the course and cannot be further disseminated. Electronic video/audio recordings initiated by students are not permitted unless an explicit permission is granted by faculty.

Accommodations Policy

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Services (404-894-2563), [http://www.ohr.gatech.edu/ers/disability Links to an external site.](http://www.ohr.gatech.edu/ers/disability_links_to_an_external_site) All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. They will then contact me with instructions.

Respect and Consideration:

Please, above all, be respectful and considerate of others in the class. It should go without saying, but this includes showing up on time for classes, team meetings, exams, etc. Please turn your cell phone, pager, PDA, or any other alarms and ringers **off** while you are in class. Given the remote delivery of this course, please also make sure to be respectful in all online course environments (e.g., muting while not speaking during synchronous class sessions, respectful communication in the online chat, etc.) If you disturb the class, you may be asked to leave.