Course Syllabus: IS 661 User Experience Design

Semester: Fall 2024
Section 001: Tuesdays 2:30 PM - 5:20 PM at FMH 213

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday, 1:15 - 2:15 PM, and by appointment
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General Information

Course Description

This course offers an introductory journey into User Experience (UX) Design, blending essential theories with hands-on practice. While it introduces foundational concepts of UX design, such as human-centered design and design thinking, we place a strong emphasis on practice: actively ideating, creating prototypes, and refining them by putting the user first. By integrating knowledge with practical application, you'll gain insight into the process of designing user experiences.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Understand the key concepts and techniques in UX design.
- Apply the learned concepts and techniques to:
  - Develop their UX design work.
  - Analyze and evaluate their and others' UX design work.
- Cultivate essential traits of a UX designer by:
  - Ideating and refining designs with iterations.
  - Reflecting on and documenting their design processes.
  - Presenting their UX design choices with reasonings.

Textbook and Readings

Textbooks are not required. Readings will be posted on Canvas.

Grading and Assignments

Grading Policy

The class will be graded on a 100-point scale. (Also, see Grading Legend)

A Excellent	B+ Good	B Acceptable	C+ Marginal Performance	C Minimum Performance	D Failure
> 90	80 - 90	70 - 80	65 - 70	60 - 65	< 60

Point Distribution

- 5%   Attendance
- 5%   Weekly reflection
- 20%   Individual assignments and activities
- 10%   Midterm milestone
- 7%   Midterm: Individual contributions to the group project
- 25%   Final project
- 13%   Final: Individual contributions to the group project
- 15%   In-class quiz on December 10

Please note that there may be slight modifications to the grading policy depending on issues that arise during the semester. I can add or reduce points based on various situations. For instance, exceptional participation and contributions in class may result in additional points, while poor participation and lack of thoughtful contributions may lead to point deductions. Additionally, I may make slight adjustments to the grading scale or apply a curve as needed to ensure fairness in the overall grading process.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend every class on time.
- **If you miss 3 class sessions, you will automatically be deducted a letter grade.**
- **If you miss 5 class sessions, you will automatically fail the course.**
- **Students who arrive after the attendance call/quiz or leave before the class officially ends will be marked as late. Accumulating 3 late attendance will count as 1 absence.**

Please contact the Office of the Dean of Students (DOS) to verify your absence. For more details, please see the Student Absence Verification section below.

Even when you don't have a valid (DOS verifiable) reason and cannot attend class, **I strongly encourage you to notify me in advance** (not after the class). I will try to consider your situation, though I cannot guarantee to what extent.

Student Absence Verification

Students should contact the Office of the Dean of Students (DOS) to verify their absence when missing class due to bereavement, medical concerns, military activity, legal obligations, or university-sponsored events.

Once the absence has been verified, the DOS will communicate to your professor(s) on your behalf. Please note that our office only verifies documentation and it is at the discretion of your professor(s) or their department's policy to provide any accommodation. It is the student's responsibility to follow up with the professor(s). Students who select an option (bereavement, medical concerns, etc.) that does not match the presenting concern and supporting documentation will be rejected.

For more information, please see https://www.njit.edu/dos/student-absence-verification.

Late Assignment Submissions

If an assignment is submitted late, one-fourth of the total points will be deducted per day. For example, if an assignment is due by 6:00 pm and you submit it after 6:00 p.m. but before 6:00 pm the following day, 25% of the total points will be deducted (50% on the second day, 75% on the third day, and 100% after that). I strongly encourage you to submit your assignments on time, even if you feel they are not yet ready or perfect.

And, **I still strongly encourage you to submit the assignments, no matter how late they are**. I cannot promise, but there may be a remedy. I will try to consider your effort, though I cannot guarantee to what extent.

In-class quiz on December 10

We will have an in-class review quiz on December 10, 2024. Further details will be provided during the semester. If you cannot take the quiz on December 10, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements. Failure to notify me in advance may result in a zero for the quiz.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: NJIT Academic Integrity Code.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

Use of Generative AI

Generative AI tools are permitted in this course for reference purposes only, and no citation is necessary when used for inspiration or guidance. However, you are expected to understand any AI-generated content before including it in your work. Simply copying and pasting AI outputs without comprehension is not acceptable. Additionally, in most assignments and labs, I require you to demonstrate not only the final results but also the process of how you arrive at them. If you have any questions or concerns about the appropriate use of AI technology in this course, please contact me before submitting any assignments.

Schedule Outline

(Subject to modification)

Date	Topics
Class 1: 9/3	Course introduction: syllabus, self-introduction, project Introduction to UX
9/9	Last Day to Add/Drop a Class
Class 2: 9/10	Finding the "right" problem and understanding the users: preliminary research, user research, research ethics
Class 3: 9/17	Finding the "right" problem and understanding the users: persona
Class 4: 9/24	Finding the "right" problem and understanding the users: user journey
Class 5: 10/1	UX topic: Accessibility
Class 6: 10/8	UX topic: Usability and discoverability
Class 7: 10/15	Midterm milestone: presentation and documentation
Class 8: 10/22	Designing the solution: wireframe, use flow
Class 9: 10/29	Evaluation: task design, user testing
Class 10: 11/5	UX topic: Visuals
11/11	Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
Class 11: 11/12	UX topic: How to do a presentation
Class 12: 11/19	UX topic: Some UX principles and laws
11/26	No class (Thursday Classes Meet)
Class 13: 12/3	UX topic: other design disciplines

Class 14: 12/10	Quiz Final project progress check
12/15-21	Final project: presentation and documentation

Others

Center for Counseling and Psychological Services

C-CAPS provides free counseling for full-time students. For more information, see
https://www.njit.edu/counseling/.

Getting Technical Help

The IST Service Desk is the central hub for all information related to computing technologies at
NJIT. This includes being the first point of contact for those with computing questions or
problems.

Accessibility

If you are in need of accommodations due to a disability, please contact Scott Janz, Associate
Director of the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services (OARS), Fenster Hall Room 260 to
discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the OARS authorizing
your accommodations will be required.