Students learn planning, research, and production methods specific to the discipline of interaction design. Principles covered relate to information hierarchy, user/information interactions, user-experience, and usability. Students receive exposure to relevant interaction design trends as means to analyze the use of technology in solving complex problems.

CREDITS & PREREQUISITES  
ADES 3510 is a three unit course. Students must have successfully completed ADES 2520 and ADES 2530. Student must have been selected to continue in the program in the mid-point portfolio review.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Understand what interaction design (IxD), user-interface design (UI), user-experience design (UX), and information architecture are.
• Understand methods, skills, and knowledge necessary to design for interactive communications.
• Understand the various roles a designer can play in IxD as well as which areas fit your desires, experience, and knowledge.
• Demonstrate ability to concept and develop digital solutions to improve human experience.
• Demonstrate the ability to facilitate user testing.
• Gain confidence in your strengths as a designer.
• Acknowledge the role of a responsible designer, able to assist with complex human problems and to make a difference in the world.

STRUCTURE  
This class is primarily structured around one large design challenge. This runs concurrent to an ongoing online journal (Project 1), followed by a case-study presentation (Project 3). Projects 1 and 3 each last half a semester. A tentative week-by-week schedule is provided at the end of this syllabus. Classes consist of lectures, critiques, demonstrations, student presentations, and in-class work. Come prepared each class with work complete and ready for feedback. The course will demand substantial work outside of class to progress and effectively use class time.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

MacBook Pro (or similar PC)
Adobe Creative Cloud*
One Drive/Dropbox, etc. account
flash drive (at least 1 GB)
3×5 index cards (can be shared)
funds for occasional prints

CANVAS/EMAIL  
All course documents and specific project requirements will be posted to Canvas. Announcements will be updated regularly via Canvas and/or email. It is not possible for faculty to communicate to students via personal email accounts, so you must regularly monitor UNT email, or forward it to an alternative account.

*Primarily Adobe XD and InDesign. You may need Illustrator and Photoshop occasionally as well.
**ASSESSMENT** Your final grade is based on the average of scores accumulated throughout the semester. Final grades are rounded to the nearest 10th of a point. Rubrics and specifications are to be provided for each assignment, but assessment is primarily based on four categories:

**Participation** Respect classmates by listening and participating, especially in critiques. Your opinion is valuable! Points are docked for sleeping, texting, working on other class work, using social media, or other disruptive behavior in class. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence.

**Professionalism** Meet all specifications, including size, format, etc. as outlined for each assignment. Closely follow instructions! Keep files organized, and clearly label uploads. Keep up with attendance, don’t be late to critiques, and avoid typos at all costs!

**Concept** Apply research and push yourself toward a unique, polished approach. Refine your work throughout a project’s progression. Use demos/feedback, and revise projects as needed. Include thorough process documentation as requested. Keep everything!

**Design** Balance the concept with equally compelling visuals. Visual decisions should all address the problem posed in the assignment prompt. Strong designs are original, avoiding tropes or cliché. For full marks, designs need to push boundaries of modern design and make even your professor jealous.

A 90%+ Excellent work! Surpasses goals of assignment/course.

B 80%–89.9% Great work, with a few opportunities for improvement.

C 70%–79% Good effort, achieved all outlined goals.

D 60%–69% Below average. Undeveloped ideas and/or execution.

F 0%–59.9% Unacceptable. I know you can do better!

**COMPUTER ETIQUETTE** You are responsible for bringing and maintaining your own computer. Computers crash, drives become corrupt—more than once you may lose your work. Unfortunately this can occur more often as computers age and become overloaded with classwork. Crashes, loss of data, theft of machine, etc. are not acceptable reasons for turning work in late. Develop good backup habits!

- Save often. Especially if you’re going to do something radical. Perhaps create a backup copy to save before you make any big changes.

- Save incrementally (aka versioning). For instance, save your files as: myProject_V01, myProject_V02, myProject_V03, etc. If a file does become corrupt or mysteriously vanishes, the previously saved file minimizes your loss. This is vital for documenting your process as well.

- Back up files in more than one place. Besides saving work files onto your hard drive, save onto Google Drive, Dropbox, Box or another Cloud based service. This includes your raw data, research, images, text, etc.

- Resist the urge to text, check social media, or work on outside course work. It is ultimately your decision to be a diligent student or distracted seat warmer—so use technology wisely.

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**PROJECT WEIGHTS**

**P1: The Journal** 20%
Maintain a weekly Wordpress journal. Prompts given weekly may relate to assigned readings, tutorials, or project process documentation.

**P2: The Big One** 60%
Topics are assigned to groups of 3–4 students for a semester-long project. This is evaluated in three parts over the course of the semester: Research, Content, and Design/Prototyping. Each is worth 20% of your course grade, with a large number of points contributed through faculty and peer performance reviews.

**P3: The Case Study** 20%
Select a website from the assignment handout and research it thoroughly at your own pace throughout the semester. Analyze the information architecture, imagine a user persona, record a user journey, and summarize it all for your classmates. Presentations will take place daily (excluding critique days), beginning halfway through the semester.
ATTENDANCE  Roll is taken at the beginning of every class. You are considered late if you arrive after roll is taken. If late, it is your responsibility during that class period to ensure the instructor knows you are present. You have two (2) free tardies. After the first two tardies, every four (4) tardies equal one (1) unexcused absence. You are counted absent if you arrive more than 30 minutes late.

Attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences result in lowering your final grade by one letter. Four lowers your final grade by two letters. Seven absences, excused or unexcused, will result in a failing grade. It is your responsibility to provide justification for all absences. You are responsible for obtaining class information missed through absence and being prepared for the next class. If the absence is unexcused, obtain necessary information from another student. Absences are only excused for verifiable death in the immediate family or with a doctor’s note on his/her stationary with a telephone number. The doctor’s note must be presented at the next class.

If you are absent, you are responsible for contacting a class member to get any information or assignments given in class. The instructor will not use class time to repeat missed lectures or assignments. Do not call the main office to leave the instructor a note that you are missing class. Communication through email is preferred.

GUIDELINES  Your perspective, voice and opinion are important and valued. Respect one another, and be prepared to help your classmates regularly. We can all learn from each other, so listen well and speak up often! It will help everyone if you will:

- Turn off your phone, or set it to vibrate if you’re expecting urgent news. Leave quietly to take the call; don’t answer it in class. Don’t text, either!
- Get on good terms with each program’s spell-check feature. Misspelled words in final projects drop your score half a letter grade!

ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS  The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.

For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

DIGITAL SUBMISSIONS  As a primarily digital course, all deliverables will be submitted online. The cutoff for digital submissions is by the start of class exactly.

Uploads complete during the first ten minutes of class will result in the student being marked tardy that day, as one cannot be mentally present while uploading late work. After ten minutes it is considered late.

No late projects will be accepted for grading. All students are responsible for turning in work on time regardless of attendance.

*To learn about campus resources and how you can achieve success, go to success.unt.edu.
**PLAGIARISM** Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and may result in failure of an assignment, the class, or result in removal from the university. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. The student will first be notified in writing via email to schedule a face-to-face meeting with the instructor and another faculty member to determine the next level of action. If further action is warranted, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose an additional penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term “cheating” includes, but is not limited to: a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. Plagiarism is also literary or artistic theft. It is the false assumption of authorship; the wrongful act of taking the product of another person's mind and presenting it as one’s own. Copying someone else's writing or art, intact or with inconsequential changes, and adding one’s name to the result constitutes plagiarism.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT** UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. UNT’s Student Advocate can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

**EMERGENCIES** UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, res, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at http://www.my.unt.edu.

Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**TITLE IX**

Faculty are required to report disclosures of sexual assault, domestic violence, relationship violence, stalking, and/or gender-based harassment to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. I have a mandatory obligation to report disclosures of or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect.

The purpose of these reporting requirements is for the University to inform you of options, support and resources; you will not be forced to file a police report. Further, you are able to receive supports/resources, even if you elect to not request any action be taken. Please note that in certain situations, based on the nature of the disclosure, the University may need to take action.
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until all an all clear signal is sounded. Follow your teacher’s instructions and act accordingly.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See www.unt.edu/csrr for further information.

FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit: http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

RETENTION/REPRODUCTION OF STUDENT WORK AND PUBLICITY The Design Department has the right to retain any and all student work for NASAD (National Association of Schools and Design) and CIDA (Council for Interior Design Accreditation) accreditation reviews for a period of up to 2 years. It is the student’s responsibility to document their work for personal purposes. Students will be allowed to photograph their work prior to retention. When accreditation reviews are completed, students may retrieve their original work. It is the student’s responsibility to retrieve their work in a timely manner. Two months after the completion of the accreditation review(s) any remaining work will be destroyed.

Instructor reserves the right to make adjustments/changes to the course syllabus with or without notice.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>What is Interaction Design?</td>
<td>Launch Project 1: The Journal&lt;br&gt;Homework: Class Survey + Journal Entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>Research &amp; Process</td>
<td>Launch Project 2 Part 1: Research&lt;br&gt;Homework: Begin Project 2</td>
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<td>9/03</td>
<td>Goals &amp; Persona Hypothesis</td>
<td>Homework: Continue Research + Journal Entry</td>
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<td>9/05</td>
<td>Survey Methods &amp; Questions</td>
<td>Introduce Final Assignment&lt;br&gt;Homework: Continue Project 2</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>Users &amp; Empathy in UX</td>
<td>Sign up for Final topic&lt;br&gt;Homework: User personas + Journal Entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Critique User Personas (Printed!)</td>
<td>User Scenarios&lt;br&gt;Homework: User scenarios &amp; begin presentation decks</td>
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<td>9/17</td>
<td>Presenting Research</td>
<td>Share User Scenarios&lt;br&gt;Homework: Complete presentations + Journal Entry</td>
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<td>9/19</td>
<td>Critique presentation drafts</td>
<td>Homework: Revise &amp; practice presentations</td>
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<td>9/24</td>
<td>Research Presentations (Part 1 DUE)</td>
<td>Homework: Journal entry, evaluate classmates, outline site</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
<td>Launch Project 2 Part 2: Content</td>
<td>IA and User Flows&lt;br&gt;Homework: Refine IA, create user flow</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/01</td>
<td>Critique IA and user flow</td>
<td>Importance of Written Voice &amp; Tone&lt;br&gt;Homework: Writing samples + Journal Entry</td>
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<td>10/03</td>
<td>Wireframes, Cards, Patterns, &amp; Responsive Design</td>
<td>Review outlines and writing research&lt;br&gt;Homework: Continue Part 2</td>
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<td>10/08</td>
<td>Progressive Disclosure; Scrolling vs Clicking</td>
<td>Work Day&lt;br&gt;Homework: Wireframes + Journal Entry</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
<td>Usability</td>
<td>Rotating Reviews: writing /outlines&lt;br&gt;Homework: Finalize wireframes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Critique Wireframes</td>
<td>Homework: Revise, evaluations + Journal Entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Part 2 DUE</td>
<td>Launch Project 2 Part 3: Prototypes&lt;br&gt;Style Tiles; Digital Guidelines; Skeuomorphic vs. Flat&lt;br&gt;Homework: Style tiles</td>
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**WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE**

November 22 is the last day you can withdraw from the class. Please be aware of your standing in the class and be prepared to withdraw if you find yourself in a position of needing to do so.

This schedule is VERY tentative and is subject to change. Check Canvas and in-class handouts for up-to-date deadlines.
**GOOD READS**

There is no required book for this class. Assigned readings will be given as PDF or online links. Though if you want to learn more, I recommend:

*Interaction Design: From Concept to Completion*
Jamie Steane and Joyce Yee

*Rocket Surgery Made Easy*
Steve Krug

*Don't Make Me Think*
Steve Krug

*Mobile First*
[abookapart.com/products/mobile-first]
Luke Wroblewski

*Prototyping*
Todd Zaki Warfel

*Responsive Web Design*
Ethan Marcotte

*Designing Interactions*
Bill Moggridge

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

abookapart.com

adaptivepath.org/ideas/

alistapart.com

cooper.com/journal/

producthunt.com

smashingmagazine.com

uie.com

uxmovement.com

w3schools.com

**PODCASTS**

The Design of Business | The Business of Design

Dollars to Donuts

The Big Web Show

UIE Brain Sparks

Boxes and Arrows