INFO 4745 / INFO 5745 Information Architecture

Contact Information

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*Use the Blackboard Learn (https://learn.unt.edu/) Discussions and Course Messages tools for all course-related communication.

Course Description

This course introduces the student to the basic concepts and components of Information Architecture within the context of end-user and organizational needs. It provides the student with an understanding of the intellectual technologies necessary to design and implement effective and cost–efficient information systems such as digital libraries, database systems, and a range of other web-accessible resources, as well as collaborative computer systems in organizational environments. Students conduct a collaborative term project to design and implement a real-world system integrating the knowledge and skills learned on organization of information, visual design, human interface and usability issues.

Course Objectives

This course has 10 lessons. The topics and release dates of the lessons can be found in **Table 1** at the end of this syllabus. Upon completion of this course, students should:

• Achieve a good understanding of major concepts and aspects related to Information Architecture such as definitions, elements of an information architecture, usability, and accessibility;
• Achieve a good understanding of user-centered design methodology and master at least two of the methods for user-centered design;
• Identify and apply useful tools for documenting and implementing an Information Architecture; and
• Be able to plan and implement the information architecture of a medium size on-line application.

To achieve the above learning objectives, students are expected to study 9 - 12 hours per week for this course.

Prerequisites

Students should have good knowledge of information organization, the Internet, and Website authoring using HTML. The following two courses are the prerequisites for master students:

> INFO 5200: Introduction to Information Organization
> INFO 5814: Web Content Development and Maintenance

Students who have not taken the above two courses should talk with the instructor prior to registration.

Undergraduate students who like to take this course should talk with the instructor before they register for this course.

Office Hours and Online Meetings

Students are welcomed to make an appointment with Dr. Chen and Duha at any time to discuss course related questions. Dr. Chen and Duha's office hours are provided above. Please send an email even if you plan to visit us during the office hours so that we can schedule individual meetings for all visiting students.

This course will have a website in Blackboard Learn (http://learn.unt.edu). **Six online meetings are scheduled on Thursdays (see Table 2 at the end of the syllabus for dates). All Students are required to attend these online meetings.**

Required Textbooks

1. Brown, Dan M. *Communicating design: developing website documentation for design and planning.* (2nd edition). New Riders, 2010. ISBN 9780321712462
2. Rosenfeld, Louis, Morville, Peter, and Arango, Jorge. *Information Architecture: For the web and beyond.* (4th edition). O'Rreilly Media, Inc., 2015. ISBN 978-1491911686
3. Krug, Steve. *Don't make me think, Revisited: A common sense approach to web usability.* (3rd edition). New Riders, 2014. ISBN 9780321965516

Other class readings, if any, will be specified in related lessons.

International Students Holding F-1 Visa

International students who hold F-1 Visa must meet with the instructor in Discovery Park Room E292J at the office hours for the first two weeks of each semester.

Assignments and Assessments

This course is offered completely online with mandatory online meetings. Students are expected to study the 10 lessons, take self-test after each lesson, participate in

discussions, and turn in assignments on time. The final grade is an accumulation of the following:

Participation (15%): Students are required to participate in the six online meetings. Each attendance counts 1% toward the final score. Students are also required to actively participate in class discussions on the discussion fora. Six significant postings which either ask or answer a question or respond to another posting are expected from each student.

Assignments (**30%**) Three individual assignments will be given during the semester. Students are required to submit their assignments on time to the assignment drop box by the due dates specified in this syllabus (See table 1)

Quiz (10%) A quiz will be given near the end of the semester. The quiz will cover the entire course content up to the date when the quiz is given. The questions in the quiz will be 30 multiple-choice questions that are randomly selected from the self-test questions and/or exercises (if applicable) distributed to you after each lesson. The quiz will be available in the Blackboard Learn class website. The instructions on how to take the quiz will be announced one week prior to the quiz.

Term Project (45%) Students will work in teams to (re)design and (re)develop a website (fully functional) and its respective IA deliverables. You should demonstrate the use of different techniques learned in this class.

The UNT scale for **grading** is as follows:

  A = 90-100
  B = 80-89
  C = 70-79
  D = 60-69
  F = 59 and below

Late Submission

Students are expected to submit assignments and projects on time. The due dates are Thursdays 11:59pm of the week specified in Table 2. Study Schedule and Due Dates. If an extenuating circumstance such as a medically diagnosed illness or family emergency arises, which prevents you from submitting your assignments, you should contact the instructor and the TA as soon as possible before the due date. **Late work without the permission of the instructor will receive a grade with a 10% penalty (or 10 points out of 100) per day after the due date.** A student who is having trouble with assignments is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor and the TA as early as possible for personal advising.

Incomplete

An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last quarter of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (e.g., serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule. The student must arrange with the instructor to finish the course later by completing specific requirements. Please refer to http://registrar.unt.edu/grades/incompletes for more information. If an incomplete is not removed within the time frame agreed to by instructor and student, the instructor may assign a grade of F.

Withdrawal

The UNT Graduate Catalog (http://catalog.unt.edu/index.php?catoid=16) describes and explains withdrawal policies and deadlines. The UNT semester course schedule lists specific deadlines regarding withdrawal. A grade of Withdraw (W) or Withdraw-Failing (WF) will be given depending on a student's attendance record and grade earned. Please note that a student who simply stops attending class and does not file a withdrawal form may receive an F

Academic Integrity

UNT has established a new policy on academic integrity, which can be found at the Provost office website: http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm. Specifically, UNT policy 18.1.16 (http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf) defines the categories of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication facilitating academic dishonesty, and sabotage. Also, it authorizes the instructor to determination that academic dishonesty has occurred. "A finding by an instructor that academic dishonesty occurred may be considered grounds for more serious academic penalties, up to and including failure in the course."

Penalties on Academic Dishonesty

- **First Time Violation.** The instructor will follow UNT procedure (http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/sites/default/files/u6/single-violation-procedure-flowchart_9_25_13.pdf) and report the case to UNT Office for Academic Integrity (AIO). Student will receive "0" for the assignment/project that he/she performs academic dishonesty;
- **Second Time Violation.** The instructor will follow UNT procedure on multiple violation (http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/sites/default/files/u6/multiple-violations-procedure-flowchart_edits_9-19-13.pdf) and report the case to UNT AIO. Student will receive "F" for this course.

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Statement

The Department of Information Science at University of North Texas is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the Department will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment

and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline.

Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

See next pages for:

Table 1. Lessons, Readings, and Their Release Schedule
Table 2. Online Lives Classes
Table 3. Study Schedule and Due Dates

Table 1. Lessons, Readings, and their Release Schedule

Lessons	Topics	Readings	Release Time
1	Introduction to Information Architecture	**R, M, & A**: 1-4	**Week 1**
2	Information Architecture Elements (1)	**R, M, & A**: 5, 6, 7 **K**: 1-3	**Week 2**
3	Information Architecture Elements (2)	**R, M, & A**: 8, 9, 10 **K**: 4 – 6	**Week 2**
4	Content Management Using Drupal	Assigned Readings/tutorials	**Week 3**
5	Information Architecture Research	**R, M, & A**: 11 Assigned Readings **B**: 1 – 6, 10	**Week 5**
6	Information Architecture Strategy	**R, M, & A**: 12 Assigned Readings **B**: 1 – 6, 10	**Week 5**
7	Design and Documentation (1)	**R, M, & A**: 13 **B**: 7, 8, 9	**Week 8**
8	Design and Documentation (2)	**R, M, & A**: 13 **B**: 7, 8, 9	**Week 8**
9	Usability/Accessibility	Assigned Readings **K**: 9 - 13 **B**: 11-12	**Week 10**
10	Summary and Advanced Topics	Assigned Readings	**Week 10**

Table 2. Online Live Classes (All on Thursdays)

Week	Date	Time	Content
Week 2	Jan 26	**7:30pm – 8:30pm**	Syllabus, overview of Lessons 1-3
Week 4	Feb 2	**7:30pm – 8:30pm**	Lesson 4, team formation
Week 6	Feb 23	**7:30pm – 8:30pm**	Lessons 5-6, team progress reporting
Week 10	March 23	**7:30pm – 8:30pm**	Lessons 7-8, team progress reporting
Week 12	Apr 6	**7:30pm – 8:30pm**	Lessons 9-10, team progress reporting
Week 16	May 4	**7:30pm – 9:00pm**	Term project presentation

Table 3. Study Schedule and Due Dates

Academic Week	Dates	Study Focus	Posting/Assignment/Project /Quiz Due Dates
1	Jan 17 – Jan 21	Start Here! Syllabus	Self-Introduction (not graded) Background Survey
2	Jan 22 - Jan 28	Lesson One	
3	Jan 29 – Feb 4	Lesson Two	Lesson One Posting
4	Feb 5 – Feb 11	Lesson Three	Lesson Two Posting
5	Feb 12 – Feb 18	Lesson Four	Assignment 1 (Feb 16) Lesson Three Posting
6	Feb 19 – Feb 25	Lesson Five	Lesson Four Posting
7	Feb 26– March 4	Lesson Five Cont.	
8	March 5 – March 11	Lesson Six	Term Project First Deliverable (March 9) Lesson Five Posting
9	March 12 – March 18	Spring Break!	
10	March 19 – March 25	Lesson Seven	Assignment 2 (March 23) Lesson Six Posting
11	March 26 – Apr 1	Lesson Eight	Lesson Seven Posting
12	Apr 2 – Apr 8	Lesson Nine	Assignment 3 (Apr 6) Lesson Eight Posting
13	Apr 9 – Apr 15	Lesson Ten	Lesson Nine Posting
14	Apr 16 – Apr 22	Prepare for Quiz	Term Project Second Deliverable (Apr 20) Lesson Ten Posting
15	Apr 23 – Apr 29	Work on Term Project	QUIZ (Whole Week)
16	Apr 30 – May 6	Finishing Your Term Project	Term Project Final Deliverable (May 4)