

INFO 4745 Information Architecture

Instructor

Dr. Jiangping Chen
Associate Professor
Department of Library and Information Sciences
College of Information, University of North Texas
1155 Union Circle #311068
Denton, Texas 76203-5017
Discovery Park, Room E292J
Phone: (940) 565-3497
Jiangping.Chen@unt.edu

Teaching Assistant

Min Namgoong
Email: MinNamgoong@my.unt.edu

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 12 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.

Office Hours and Online Meetings

Students are welcomed to make an appointment with Min at any time to discuss course related questions. Min's office hours are provided below. Please send her an email even if you plan to visit her during the office hours so that she can schedule individual meetings for all visiting students.

Date & Time:	Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm
Location:	Discovery Park, Room E297J/E292J
Phone:	940-565-3497

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. Communicating Design: Developing Web Site Documentation for Design and Planning. 2nd edition. New Riders Press, 2010. ISBN-10: 0321712463
2. Rosenfeld, Louis, Morville, Peter, and Arango, Jorge. Information Architecture: For the web and beyond. 4th Edition. O'Reilly, 2015. ISBN 978-1491911686
3. Krug, Steve. Don't make me think: A common sense approach to web usability. 2nd Edition, New Riders Publishing, 2005. ISBN 978-0321344755

Other class readings 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 E297J 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 12 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 web site (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

Policy about Incomplete Grade: A grade of “I” will be assigned only to a student who submits a formal application to the instructor three weeks before the end of the semester. In the application, the student should state the reasons for the incomplete and the planned date that the remaining coursework is to be completed.

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>. The Department of Library and Information Sciences (LIS), formerly the School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS), University of North Texas has passed an “Academic Misconduct Policy” on April 15, 2005. All students should have signed the form “Student Acknowledgement of Academic Misconduct Policy” prior to enrollment in their SLIS course or as part of their application to the Department.

The Department expects all students to demonstrate both academic rigor and academic integrity. The purpose of this policy is to inform LIS students of their responsibilities regarding the University of North Texas (UNT) Student Standards of Academic Integrity (http://www.unt.edu/policy/UNT_Policy/volume3/18_1_16.pdf) and the procedures enforced by LIS for cases of misconduct. The LIS Academic Misconduct Policy is compatible with the UNT Academic Integrity policy.

The two categories of most relevance to LIS are cheating and plagiarism, which you can find the definitions from UNT Student Standards of Academic Integrity. To address problems of academic integrity, LIS has zero tolerance for violations of the LIS Academic Misconduct Policy. The following apply:

- The LIS Academic Misconduct Policy applies to any work submitted for LIS courses or degree requirements, including the Capstone Experience.
- LIS will retain students' signed statements acknowledging their understanding of the LIS Academic Misconduct Policy. LIS instructors will not accept students' claims that

they were unaware of LIS and UNT policies, including definitions of forms of academic misconduct.

- LIS instructors will follow UNT regulations for reporting suspected violations to UNT, imposing academic sanctions, and recording sanctions for confirmed violations.
- An academic sanction is a penalty imposed on a student for academic misconduct. Sanctions may range from reduction of a test or assignment grade to revocation of an academic degree.
- LIS instructors retain the right to determine specific sanctions for their courses and to set additional policies and procedures that do not conflict with LIS or UNT policies.
- Students who have received academic sanctions are not eligible for LIS awards, honors, or other benefits.

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Statement

The Department of Library and Information Sciences, 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 \(Recommended\) and Due Dates](#)

Table 1. Lessons, Readings, and their Release Schedule

Lessons	Topics	Readings	Release Time
1	Introduction to Information Architecture	R, M, & A: 1-5	Week 1
2	Information Architecture Elements (1)	R, M, & A: 6, 7, 8 K: 1-3	Week 2
3	Information Architecture Elements (2)	R, M, & A: 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 4
6	Information Architecture Strategy	R, M, & A: 12 Assigned Readings B: 1 – 6, 10	Week 4
7	Design and Documentation (1)	R, M, & A: 13 B: 7, 8, 9	Week 6
8	Design and Documentation (2)	R, M, & A: 13 B: 7, 8, 9	Week 6
9	Usability/Accessibility	Assigned Readings K: 9-13 B: 11-12	Week 8
10	Information Architecture in Practice	Assigned Readings	Week 8
11	Case Studies	Assigned Readings	Week 10
12	Advanced Topics	Assigned Readings	Week 10

Table 2. Online Live Classes (All on Thursdays)

Week	Date	Time (CST)	Content
Week 2	Jan. 28	7:30pm – 8:30pm	Syllabus, overview of Lessons 1-3
Week 4	Feb. 11	7:30pm – 8:30pm	Lesson 4, team formation
Week 6	Feb. 25	7:30pm – 8:30pm	Lessons 5-6, team progress reporting
Week 8	Mar. 10	7:30pm – 8:30pm	Lessons 7-8, team progress reporting
Week 11	Mar. 31	7:30pm – 8:30pm	Lessons 9-12, team progress reporting
Week 16	May 5	7:30pm – 9:00pm	Term project presentation

Table 3. Study Schedule (Recommended) and Due Dates

Academic Week	Dates	Study Focus	Posting/Assignment/Project /Quiz Due Dates (Thursday midnight, CTS)
1	Jan. 19 – 23	Start Here Syllabus	
2	Jan. 24 – 30	Lesson One	Self-Introduction (not graded)
3	Jan. 31 – Feb. 6	Lesson Two	Lesson One Posting (Feb. 4)
4	Feb. 7 – 13	Lesson Three	Lesson Two Posting (Feb. 11)
5	Feb. 14 – 20	Lesson Four	Assignment 1 (Feb. 18) Lesson Three Posting (Feb. 18)
6	Feb. 21 – 27	Lesson Five	Lesson Four Posting (Feb. 25)
7	Feb. 29 – Mar. 5	Lesson Five Cont.	
8	Mar. 6 – 12	Lesson Six	Term Project First Deliverable (Mar. 10) Lesson Five Posting (Mar. 10)
9	Mar. 13 – 19	Spring Break	
10	Mar. 20 – 26	Lesson Seven	Assignment 2 (Mar. 24) Lesson Six Posting (Mar. 24)
11	Mar. 27 – Apr. 2	Lesson Eight	Lesson Seven Posting (Mar. 31)
12	Apr. 3 – 9	Lesson Nine	Lesson Eight Posting (Apr. 7)
13	Apr. 10 – 16	Lesson Ten	Assignment 3 (Apr. 14) Lesson Nine Posting (Apr. 14)
14	Apr. 17 - 23	Lesson Eleven Review Prepare for Quiz	Term Project Second Deliverable (Apr. 21) Lesson Ten Posting (Apr. 21)
15	Apr. 24 – 30	Lesson Twelve	QUIZ (the whole week) Lesson Eleven Posting (Apr. 28) Lesson Twelve Posting (Apr. 28)
16	May 1 - 7	Finishing Your Term Project	Term Project Final Deliverable (May 5)