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| **UNT Logo** | **University of North Texas**  **College of Information**  **Department of Information Science** |
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**INFO 4745 Information Architecture**

**[Undergraduate Students]**

**Course Syllabus**

# I. COURSE INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Xin Wang – Principal Lecturer

**Email:** xin.wang@unt.edu

**Office:** Discovery Park, Room E296L

**Office Hour:**  Thursday, 1pm-2pm, by appointment—arrange via course

messages or the instructor or TA via email [xin.wang@unt.edu](mailto:xin.wang@unt.edu) and

**Teaching Assistant:** Liyu Yang

**Email:** LiyuYang@my.unt.edu

**Class time and location**: Online, Canvas LMS. Each week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday.

**\***Use [UNT Canvas](https://unt.instructure.com/) Discussions and Canvas Messages tools as well as the email above 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 12 Modules. The topics and release dates of the Modules can be found in **Table 1** at the end of this syllabus. Upon completion of this course, students should:

* Gain a foundational understanding of the major concepts, principles, and components of Information Architecture, and begin to apply these concepts in real-world scenarios.
* Explore the fundamental aspects of IA, including design, research, prototyping, usability testing, and evaluation, with an emphasis on understanding how these processes interconnect.
* Learn and practice user-centered design methodologies, documenting the design thinking process to create effective IA projects that meet user needs.
* Get hands-on experience with IA research methods such as Card Sorting and User Interviews and learn to utilize resources for supporting IA research and strategy development.
* Demonstrate mastery of IA research methods (e.g. Card Sorting, User Interviews) and consult professional resources for IA research and strategy.
* Develop essential IA documentation, including User Personas and Use Cases, and become familiar with standard IA tools, ensuring your work aligns with basic industry practices.

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

**Appointments**

Students are welcomed to make an appointment with Dr. Wang and Teaching Assistant to discuss course related questions. It is preferred that students send an email via a Canvas message to make an appointment. We can meet online via Zoom software.

**Required Textbook**

1. Rosenfeld, Louis, Morville, Peter, and Arango, Jorge. [*Information Architecture: For the web and beyond.* (4th edition). O’Rreilly Media, Inc., 2015. ISBN 978-1491911686](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/unt/detail.action?docID=4333758)

# II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to study the 12 Modules, complete reading assignments, participate in discussions, self-test, and turn in assignments and project’s deliverables on time. The final grade is an accumulation of the following:

**1. Module Activities (40% of total grade)**

**Module Discussions (20%)**: There are several modules that require students to participate in online discussions (See details in the below table “Course Schedule”). Students are required to actively participate in Canvas discussions. Students are expected to ***post at least one (1) substantive message for each topic in a module****.* A “substantive posting” is one that is meaningful and adds value to the discussion (e.g., insightful comments, reflection supported by course readings/external readings, examples, and/or professional experience relevant to the discussion topics). Students’ posts should be substantial (e.g., 150-200 words) where students need to introduce their ideas, provide a brief analysis, and answer specific questions with examples or multiple perspectives. In addition, students are expected to post ***at least one (1) reply*** message to their classmate’s posts. Original posts must be made by **11:59p.m Friday** each week to allow adequate time for your peers to respond. Reply posts are due **11:59p.m. Sunday evening**. Students must post their original work before seeing replies. Final module discussion grade is based on the average score of all these module participation scores.

**Online Quizzes (10%):** Students will complete several online quizzes to check for your understanding of key concepts, terms, and definitions. Detailed instructions will be given on Canvas.

**Participation Activities (10%):** This is a combined class between graduate students and undergraduate students, so undergraduate students should participant into the class activities designed by Info5745 graduate students in this course. Detailed instructions will be given on Canvas.

1. **Assignment 1 to 3 (30%)** Three individual assignments will be given during the semester. Students must submit their assignments on time to the drop box by the due dates specified in this syllabus (see Table 1). They are also encouraged to start working on the assignments as early as possible.

**Assignment #1: IA Design Elements Analysis & Critique**

Points: 10% of Assignment Grade

*Description:* Students will evaluate the information architecture of a website/application assigned to them using IA design guidelines. Detailed instructions are provided in the “Assignments” area of Canvas.

**Assignment #2: User Research Exercise (Select One of the Option)**

Points: 10% of Assignment Grade

*Description:* In this assignment, you will select and apply one **user research method** to investigate user needs, behaviors, or information organization patterns. The purpose is to help you gain hands-on experience in planning, conducting, and analyzing user research, while understanding how different methods provide different types of insights.

**Assignment #3: Figma Course Certification**

Points: 10% of Assignment Grade

*Description*: Student will have a choice to complete 2 courses via Linkedin Learning to understand the basics of Figma and how to use this tool to build prototypes or portfolio. Each student will need to submit their course completion certificate obtained from LinkedIn Learning via Canvas by a specific time.

1. **Final Project -Portfolio (30%)**

Students can work individually or as a team of 2 people to create a mid-fidelity prototype in Figma and present this work as a web design portfolio. If you choose to work as a team, each team member can take the lead in one of the deliverables. For example, one student may take the lead to complete the user research to understand the end-users, while another student takes the lead on the design aspect of the projects. The course assignments listed above provide the foundation you need for the project. Thus, the final project deliverables focused on documentation of the work and professionally presenting the portfolio. If we find that you used generative AI to generate your assignments, you will receive 0 points.

* + Deliverable 1: Project Plan
  + Deliverable 2: Design and Prototyping with Figma
  + Deliverable 3: Portfolio Presentation

The first step in the project is to identify an industry or area of interest that you/your team can build a website for. This can be a web-based content management system, an e-commerce website, or a topic-based website. You may be re-designing a website or starting from scratch based on your research or interest. The group will work collaboratively on this project during initial ideation and planning. However, each student will be required to demonstrate their individual contribution at the different stages of the project if you are to work in teams. Each deliverable will have a rubric for evaluation purposes and grades will be made up of both individual and teamwork if you complete the deliverables as a team.

# ASSESSMENT & GRADING

See Information under “Course Requirements” (above) for information about assignments and grading. Assignment grading is based on rubric attached to each assignment description on Canvas.

**Grading Percentages**

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| --- | --- |
| Module Postings | 20% |
| Participation of class activities | 10% |
| Module Quizzes | 10% |
| Three (3) individual assignments | 30% |
| Term Project First Deliverable | 10% |
| Term Project Second Deliverable | 10% |
| Term Project Third Deliverable | 10% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

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**

All students are expected to submit their module activities and other assignments by the due date. We will deduct points for late submissions. If you submit an assignment after the deadline, we will deduct 10 points per delayed day (24 hours) from the assessed score. This prevents students from getting too far behind in the course and allows the instructor to assign grades consistently. Assignments are due by 11:59 PM (midnight) on the date due. If an extenuating circumstance such as a medically diagnosed illness or family emergency arises, request an extension *prior to the due date*in a professional and effective manner. Contact the instructor *and* TA via Canvas e-mail.

**Incomplete**

An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth 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 (such as 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://essc.unt.edu/registrar/academic-record-incomplete.html>for more information. You are responsible for contacting the instructor to request an incomplete and discuss requirements for completing the course. If you do not remove the incomplete within one calendar year, you will receive a grade of F.

**Withdrawal**

**Withdrawal:** See *UNT Graduate Catalog* for policies and UNT semester schedule for deadlines. A grade of withdraw (W) or withdraw-failing (WF) will be given depending on your participation and grades to date. If you simply disappear and do not file a formal UNT withdrawal form, you may receive a grade of F. UNT has a new policy for withdrawing from a course. Please see details at: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class>

**Academic Integrity**

The UNT Students Standards of Academic Integrity (2009) are available at the Provost office website: http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm. The Student Standards of Academic

Integrity *UNT Policy Manual* (http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-

Student\_Affairs-Academic\_Integrity.pdf) defines six categories of academic dishonesty: cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and sabotage. The category ***plagiarism*** defined as follows: “Use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to:

* 1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
  2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.” (http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student\_AffairsAcademic\_Integrity.pdf)

Enrollment in any INFO course is considered implicit acceptance of all DIS and UNT student policies. It is the responsibility of the student to understand and adhere to these policies. DIS has zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. DIS instructors may choose to submit any student work to Turnitin for verification of originality. Penalties for plagiarism in this course follow the UNT guidelines and for repeated offenses, **Student will receive a failing grade for the course. The instructor will direct the student to schedule an in-person conference with the instructor to discuss the suspected misconduct. The instructor will submit to UNT, per the policy, a report of the violation.**

* + **Add/Drop Policy** 
    - Please refer to the [UNT Registrar’s Office website](http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/add_drops.html) regarding the Add/Drop Policy.
  + **Code of Conduct** 
    - Please refer to the [UNT Dean of Students Office website](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) regarding the Student Code of Conduct Policy.

**Generative AI Use**

**Limited Use:** Throughout the semester, you are asked to use domain specific Generative AI (GenAI) tools for some of the assignment(s), with guidance on responsible use. This assignment help build ethical resilience and GenAI literacy, preparing you for careers in a GenAI-oriented workforce. I use GenAI to enhance materials. I will always disclose how I use GenAI, and I expect the same from you. In accordance with the UNT Honor Code, unauthorized use of GenAI tools is prohibited. Using GenAI content without proper credit or substituting your own work with GenAI undermines the learning process and violates academic integrity. If you're unsure whether something is allowed, please seek clarification.

**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 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 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 accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodation 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. Modules, Readings and Assignments, & Release Schedule**

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| **Dates** | **Topic** | **Readings** | Optional Zoom Meetings  (Thursdays)  (5 p.m.–6 p.m. CST) |
| Week 1 (August 18 - August 24) | Module 1  Start Here!  Syllabus | Readings:   * Read Syllabus * Read Rosenfeld, Louis et al**.**: Chapter:1-2 (Textbook)   Assignment (s)   * Self-Introduction (not graded) * Take Background survey | August 21  #1 Meeting: Online Orientation |
| Week 2 (August 25 - August 31) | Module 2: Introduction to Information Architecture | Readings:   * Read Rosenfeld, Louis et. al Chapter:3-4 (Textbook) * Read Module 1 Lecture notes   Assignment (s)   * Module 2 discussion postings | August 28  #2 Meeting: IA Career Investigation |
| Week 3 (September 01 - September 07) | Module 3: Information Architecture Elements (1) | Readings:   * Read Rosenfeld, Louis et al**.** Chapter 5, 6, 7 (Textbook) * Module 3 Lecture notes   Assignment(s):   * Module 3 quiz * Assignment 1 starts | September 4  #3 Meeting: IA Elements (I) |
| Week 4  (September 08 - September 14) | Module 4: Information Architecture Elements (2) | Readings:   * Read Rosenfeld, Louis et al**.** Chapter: 8, 9   (Textbook)   * Module 4 Lecture notes   Assignment(s):   * Module 4 Discussions * Assignment 1 due on September 14 | September 11  #4 Meeting: IA Elements (II) |
| Week 5 (September 15 - September 21) | Module 5: Figma Overview | Readings:   * Read Rosenfeld, Louis et al**.** Chapter:10   (Textbook)   * Module 5 Lecture notes   Assignment(s):   * Module 5 discussion postings * Term Project Deliverable 1 starts | September 18  #5 Meeting: Figma |
| Week 6 (September 22 - September 28) | Module 6: Information Architecture Research (I) | Readings:   * Read Rosenfeld, et al**.** Chapter**:**11   (Textbook)   * Assigned readings * Module 6 Lecture notes   Assignment(s):   * Module 6 discussions * Term Project Deliverable 1 due on September 28 | September 25  #6 Meeting: User Research |
| Week 7  (September 29 - October 05) | Module 7: Information Architecture Research (II) | Readings:   * Read Rosenfeld, Louis**.** Chapter**:**11   (Textbook)   * Assigned readings * Module 7 Lecture notes   Assignment(s):   * Module 7 Quiz * Term Project Deliverable 1 Due on October 5 * Assignment 2 starts | October 2  #7 Meeting: Content & Context Research |
| Week 8 (October 06 - October 12) | Module 8: Information Architecture Strategy | Readings:   * Read Rosenfeld, Louis Chapter: 12 * Assigned Readings * Module 8 Lecture notes   Assignment(s):   * Peer-Review on 1st Deliverable * Assignment 2 due on October 12 | October 9  #8 Meeting: TA Online Tutoring |
| Week 9 (October 13 - October 19) | Module 9: Design and Documentation (1) | Readings:   * Read Rosenfeld, et al**.** Chapter: 13 * Module 9 Lecture notes * Assignment(s): * Module 9 discussion postings | October 16  #9 Meeting: IA Design (I) |
| Week 10 (October 20 - October 26) | Module 10: Design and Documentation (2) | Readings:   * Read Rosenfeld, et al**.** Chapter: 10 * Assigned Readings * Module 10 lecture notes   Assignment(s):   * Assignment 3 Due on October 26 | October 23  #10: Meeting: Meeting: IA Design (II) |
| Week 11 (October 27-  November 2) | Module 11: Usability, Accessibility, and Evaluation | Readings:   * Assigned Readings * Module 11 Lecture notes * Assignment(s): * Module 11 Quiz Due | October 30  #11 Meeting: Usability Testing |
| Week 12 (November 03 - November 09) | Module 12: Summary and Advanced Topics | Readings:   * Assigned Readings * Module 12 Lecture notes * Assignment(s): * Term Project 2nd Deliverable starts | November 6  #12 Meeting: TA Tutoring |
| Week 13 (November 10 - November 16) | Work on Term Projects | Readings:   * Assigned Readings   Assignment(s):   * Continue to work on the Team project * Term Project 2nd Deliverable due on November 16 | November 13  #13 meeting: Case Study |
| Week 14 (November 17 - November 23) | Work on Term Projects | Assignment(s):   * Peer-Review on Term Project Deliverable 2 * Continue work on Term project | November 20  #14 meeting: TA Tutoring |
| **November 24 - November 30, 2025 Thanksgiving Break—No Classes** | | | |
| Week 15 (December 1 –  December 7) | Grade Release | * Term Project Final Deliverable Due on December 7 |  |
| Week 16  (December 8 –  December 12) |  | * SPOT Course Evaluation * Grade release |  |

***Note: These assignments are due on the specified date at 11:59 p.m.***