CIS*2170 – User Interface Design – Course Plan in response to COVID-19

As you are aware, the remainder of the Winter 2020 offering of CIS*2170 must transition to online-only delivery to comply with the University's policies surrounding COVID-19.

As it currently stands, we have the following outstanding items for 2170:
- Readings for Weeks 09, 10, 11
- Examples/Counterexamples for Weeks 09, 10, 11
- Labs for Weeks 09, 10, 11
- Post Winter Break Intros for ~38 students
- Final exam

The Plan

Readings: I will post all readings as soon as possible. To help prevent any further delay, I will post the set of readings for each week as soon as they are ready.

Examples/Counterexamples: The deadline for all remaining Examples/Counterexamples will be 11:59pm on Thursday, 09 April 2020, although feel free to submit them before then. I will post guidance for these on CourseLink when I announce that new Readings are available.

Labs: I will post all labs as soon as possible in this order: Week 09 Readings posted -> Week 09 Lab posted -> W10 Readings posted -> W10 Lab posted -> W11 Readings posted -> W11 Lab posted. Labs will shift to individual (rather than pair) work, online submission via CourseLink, and be modified to allow Social Distancing. The deadline for all Labs will be 11:59pm on Thursday, 09 April 2020, although feel free to submit them before then.

Intros: I have opted to shift the grading for these to be MAX(Intro_1_Grade, Intro_2_Grade), such that if you got a '1' for either set of Intros (or both), then you will get full marks. As long as you got a '1', it does not matter what the other grade is (blank, 0, 1), you will get full marks for the Introductions component of the course. For the students who scored '0' for the pre-Winter Break Intros and did not yet have a chance to present their post-Winter Break Intro, I will contact you via email with a separate (very small) work assignment.

Final Exam: I have cancelled the Final Exam for CIS*2170. I will distribute its weight equally across your Labs and [Examples/Counterexamples+Introductions]. Labs are now worth 50% of your final grade. Your Examples/Counterexamples are now worth 2/3 of 50% (~33.33%), and your Introductions are now worth 1/3 of 50% (~16.66%). I have also waived the requirement that you must pass all components of CIS*2170 in order to pass the course. Your final grade will be the grade calculated following the new weights outlined above.

However…

Many of your circumstances have changed in the past week. You might have vacated residence or moved back home, you might not have proper Internet anymore, you don't have access of UoG computing facilities anymore, you might be ill, your income may have shrunk, you might be caring for someone who is ill or in isolation, your anxiety may have increased. Likewise, it is perfectly understandable if you are "just done" with university this semester.

As such, I have also modified the 'Drop Two' policy to be a 'Drop Four' policy. When calculating your final grade for CIS*2170, I will now drop the lowest 4 (four) Example/Counterexample grades, plus drop the lowest 4 (four) Lab grades. Put another way, when calculating your final grade for CIS*2170, I will use your 7 (seven) highest Lab grades, and your 7 (seven) highest Example/Counterexample grades, plus your Intro grade (as described above).