CIS*2170 User Interface Design
0.75 Credits – Undergraduate – Winter 2019
School of Computer Science – University of Guelph

Lectures (all sections):
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1000-1120
MacKinnon (MCKN), Room 117

Instructor Details:
David Flatla
dflatla@uoguelph.ca
Office: Reynolds 2205
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1300-1500

Final Exam:
Thursday, April 18 2019
0830-1030
Room TBA

Section 01 Labs:
Tuesdays, 1430-1620
Macdonald Institute (MINS), Room 017
TA: Jovana Kusic (cis2170@socs.uoguelph.ca)

Section 02 Labs:
Thursdays, 1130-1320
MacKinnon (MCKN), Room 235
TA: Matthew Kirchhof (cis2170@socs.uoguelph.ca)

Section 03 Labs:
Mondays, 1530-1720
MacKinnon (MCKN), Room 238
TA: Kendra Dubois (cis2170@socs.uoguelph.ca

Course Website: https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/d2l/home/548839
The course website will be used to post announcements and weekly readings. You are responsible for checking this site daily. Assignments will be submitted via the course website or on paper, and grades will be released on the course website.

Readings: Readings will be posted on the course website each week.

Course Prerequisites: CIS*1200 or CIS*1500

Course Calendar Description:
This course is a practical introduction to the area of user interface construction. Topics include user interface components and their application, best practices for user interface design, approaches to prototyping, and techniques for assessing interface suitability.

COURSE PLAN
Design is an expertise-driven practice and designers are practice-led experts. As such, this course focuses on: 1) building knowledge, and 2) developing practice.

Building Knowledge (33% of final grade):
Readings (posted each Thursday [10 January – 28 March]. You must have these read for the Tuesday following the Thursday they were posted.

Discussion: On Tuesdays [15 January – 02 April], we will discuss the readings. This is a time for comments, questions, criticisms, and discussion. I will NOT be lecturing what you have read (i.e., reading is 100% your responsibility). Take notes as you read (summarize), record any questions you have as you read (engage), and identify strengths and weaknesses of the topics covered in the readings (critique). Bring your thoughts to class and we'll have a great time discussing them.

Example/Counterexample Submission: On Wednesdays [due 1700 on 16 January – 03 April], you must submit an example or counterexample illustrating one or more concepts in the week's readings and/or previous day's discussion. Find an example or counter-example illustrating one or more of the topics discussed that week. Submit a screenshot/image to the course website, along with a 100 word (maximum) text description. Must be a PDF – screenshot/image first (plus source if needed), followed by the text description. 1-2 pages are the expected norm, but you can use more if neede (e.g., illustrating a multi-step concept may require a sequence of screenshots).

Reflection: On Thursdays [17 January – 04 April], I will randomly select 10-22 of the previous day's example/counterexample submissions for discussion in class. I will call on people randomly to introduce their submission one at a time – they will each stand up (if possible), and verbally introduce their submission. I understand that this will be challenging for many of you, so to help provide motivation, you will receive credit for this (i.e., present and spoke = 100%).

Developing Practice (33% of final grade):
Labs will begin in Week 2 (14 January). In each lab, you will be paired with someone else in the lab, and assigned a practical design exercise that you must complete by the end of your lab. You will complete and submit your design exercise on paper so *bring paper, pencils, colouring pencils, pens, etc.* Attendance will be taken for all labs, so only attend the lab you registered in.

Please ensure that you bring a laptop or other connected device to labs. The lab rooms for 2170 are not computer labs, but some labs will require access to the Internet.

Labs are capped at two hours (actually 1 hour and 50 minutes) – you must submit your work (completed or not) by the end of the lab. This is to simulate common design working conditions such as rapid turnarounds on a fixed schedule. However, consideration will be given during grading if it is apparent that a particular lab required much more than two hours to complete.

Working with others is an inherent aspect of design. As such, you will complete and submit lab work in pairs. You are free to choose your lab partner for each lab, with the only stipulation being that you cannot have the same partner more than four times. If you violate this stipulation, you will receive a grade of 0 for any labs exceeding the first four with any given partner.

Grading Scheme:
- Example/counterexample submissions [11 in total] = 22%
- In-class verbal introductions for your examples/counterexamples [1-2 each] = 11%
- Labs [11 in total] = 33%
- Final exam = 34%

In order to pass CIS*2170, you must receive a grade of >= 50% in all three components of the course. These three components are: 1) the Final Exam (34%), 2) the Labs (33%); 3) and the weighted combination of the Example/Counterexample Submissions (22%) and the In-class Verbal Introductions (11%). If you do not achieve a grade of >=50% in each of these three components, your final grade will be the highest failing grade (<50%) for your three components.

Notes on Grading:
Assessing design is an inherently subjective process. As such, it can be difficult to precisely define what 'correct' and 'incorrect' mean for submissions. To accommodate this, entire blocks of submissions (e.g., Lab 04 submissions for a given lab section) will be previewed to identify stronger and weaker submissions, and these will be used as guideposts during the grading process. We will be assessing technical aspects such as completeness (e.g., all components present), correctness (e.g., in requested format), and communication (e.g., spelling and grammar), plus more subjective aspects such as topic fit (e.g., example or lab submission is relevant to weekly topic), depth of insight for any justifications provided, and overall quality. The relative weight of these different aspects will be determined dynamically.

Requests for regrading will be declined by default. There are over 2000 units of assessment for us to grade during this course, so having an open regrading policy is infeasible. If you persist with a regrading request, we will carefully regrade every single aspect of the particular submission in question, with the potential for your grade to decrease, remain the same, or increase.

Other Notes:

- First day of class is Tuesday, 08 January 2019.
- Labs will begin Monday, 14 January 2019.
- Winter break (no classes or labs) is 18-22 February 2019.
- The 40th class day is Friday, 08 March 2019.
- Last day of class is Thursday, 04 April 2019.
- There is no midterm exam for this course.
- Final exam is on 18 April 2019 (0830-1030).

Late Policy:
As this course has a very strict schedule, no late submissions will be accepted.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement:
In lieu of a formal process for accommodating missed submissions due to illness or compassionate reasons, a global 'drop two' policy will be in effect for both your *Example/Counterexample Submissions* and your *Lab Submissions* – the two lowest grades for Examples and the two lowest grades for Labs will not be counted in the final grade calculation.

If you miss an in-class verbal introduction (as indicated by a 0 grade for this component on CourseLink) due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor by email. I will try to reschedule your missed attempt for later in the semester, subject to the availability of introduction slots.

Communication (E-mail and others):
As per university regulations, all students are required to check their *uoguelph.ca* e-mail account regularly. E-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

There will be a CourseLink Discussion Forum for discussing any issues that are of mutual benefit to everyone (e.g., discussion of course content). Please use this to discuss non-private matters.

A 2170 email address has also been created (listed with the lab TA info at the top of this document), and this **must** be used to report any private issues related to the course (e.g., problems with a partner). Only the instructor and TAs have access to this email account.

I get a lot of email, so please state the course title and your name in any correspondence you send me. If you send me a question that is answerable elsewhere (e.g., Google, course readings, peers, Discussion Forum, Course Outline, any other resource besides me), I will redirect you instead of answering your question. Please be respectful in all email correspondence. I will do the same.

Drop Date:
Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the 'add period' in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments:
Keep reliable back-up copies of any work that you do in the course; you may be asked to resubmit your work at any time.

Accessibility:
The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway. Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.
More information: http://www.uoguelph.ca/sas

Academic Misconduct:
The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Recording of Materials:
Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Academic Calendar:
The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs: http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index