CIS*2170 User Interface Design [online]
0.75 Credits – Undergraduate – Winter 2021
School of Computer Science – University of Guelph

Lectures (all sections):
 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10am-11:20am

Section 01 Labs:
 Mondays, 9:30am-11:20am

Section 02 Labs:
 Tuesdays, 12:30pm-2:20pm

Section 03 Labs:
 Fridays, 9:30am-11:20am

Instructor:
 David Flatla <*cis2170@socs.uoguelph.ca*>
 Office hours: Fridays 1pm-3pm (by appt)

Teaching Assistants:
 Madeline Gabriel <*cis2170@socs.uoguelph.ca*>
 Dhruvi Shah <*cis2170@socs.uoguelph.ca*>
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Course Website: https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/d2l/home/667692
The course website will be used for all distributions and all submissions for this course. I will use it to post announcements, readings, assignment descriptions, and grades. All assignment submissions will be submitted via the course website.

Readings: Online 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.

Online Plan: My goal for CIS*2170 this semester is to be predictable and reasonable. No component of this course will be in-person. There will be no midterm or final exam. Due dates have automatic extensions. Your lowest grade for each assessment type will be dropped. Lectures (if/when needed) will be limited to short videos on the course website. I'll strive to have everything (readings, labs, assignment descriptions) posted each Friday so you'll have the entire next week to complete and submit them. Each unit of work should take no more than two hours to complete. We'll be available Monday to Friday on the Discussion Forum to help out.

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

Building Expertise (33% of final grade):
Readings: Posted each Friday (starting 15 Jan – see schedule below). Read these first each week.

Discussion: I do not plan lectures nor are there mandatory-attendance labs for CIS*2170. Instead, we will use Discussion Boards on the course website to discuss course content and questions around assignments. Participation is not mandatory (nor graded), but Discussion Boards will be the most effective means of asking questions of the instructional staff for CIS*2170. At a minimum, I will be available on the Discussion Boards for both scheduled lecture times each week and two TAs will be available on the Discussion Boards for each scheduled lab time.

Example/Counterexample Submission: By each Friday evening (starting 22 Jan – see schedule below), you will submit an example or counterexample that illustrates one or more concepts from the week's readings. You will submit a PDF to the course website that contains a

screenshot/image (plus source) of your example with a 100-word text description. 1-2 pages are the expected norm, but you can use more if needed (e.g., illustrating a multi-step concept may require a sequence of screenshots). More details will be provided in a separate specification.

Developing Practice (55% of final grade):

Labs will begin in Week 01 (see schedule below – the first lab spec will be released 15 Jan, the first scheduled Lab (on Discussion Boards) will be 18 Jan, the first lab will be due 22 Jan). For each lab, you will work solo to do a practical design exercise. You will complete your design exercises on paper so you will need *plain paper, pencils, colouring pencils, pens, scissors, a ruler, etc.* You will also need to be able to *take photos* of your lab results for uploading. You will also occasionally need to *print out* a resource I give you to work on, but I will try to keep this to a minimum. Labs are designed to take about two hours.

Feedback Survey (12% of final grade):

Without lectures, I am going to have a hard time knowing how things are going this semester. To make up for this, I will be posting weekly quick feedback surveys to get your impressions on things like the readings, the labs, and the workload. These will start in Week 00 (first one due 15 Jan – see schedule below). This isn't strictly merit-based (although you could think of it as an exercise in survey critique and surveys are common UI user study tools), but I am making it worth grades (12% of your final grade) to encourage participation, it is quick and easy to do, and I get valuable feedback to see how things are going. Unfortunately, to allow me to give you credit for completing the survey, I need to ask for your student ID on the survey. Regardless, please be honest and open in your responses – your genuine feedback is very valuable to me.

Grading Scheme:
- Example/counterexamples [11 in total] = 33% (3% each)
- Labs [11 in total] = 55% (5% each)
- Feedback Surveys [12 in total] = 12% (1% each)

Your final grade will be the weighted average of your grades for the three submission types.

Notes on Grading:

Assessing design involves some degree of interpretation. As such, it can be difficult to precisely define what 'correct' and 'incorrect' mean for 2170 submissions. 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.

Requests for regrading will be declined by default. There are over 4000 units of assessment to be graded during this course, so having an open regrading policy is infeasible. If you persist with a regrading request, we will carefully regrade every aspect of the particular submission in question, with the potential for your grade to decrease, remain the same, or increase.

Late Policy:

As listed in the schedule below, Friday at 11:59pm is the regular (non 02 April) deadline for Examples/Counterexamples, Feedback Surveys, and Labs each week. To help accommodate any unexpected challenges, all assessments are hereby automatically granted a two-day extension, such that only submissions submitted after 11:59pm on the Sunday following the regular deadline will be graded late (receiving a grade of '0'). For submissions due at 11:59pm on Monday 12 April, this policy extends their deadline to 11:59pm on Wednesday 14 April. PLEASE DO NOT request this extension. We will apply it automatically. No worries.

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 one' policy will be in effect for your *Example/ Counterexample Submissions*, *Feedback Survey Submissions*, and *Lab Submissions* – the single lowest grade for each will not be counted in your final grade calculation. I strongly recommend saving these for emergencies rather than using them early in the semester and regretting it later.

Communication (i.e., How to get help...)
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.

The best way to get help is to post your question(s) in the Discussion Forum on the course website. There will be two TAs active on the Discussion Forum for each of the scheduled lab sessions and I will be active on the Discussion Forum for each scheduled lecture.

However, the visual nature of this course's content might require that you just need to show us a problem because it cannot be clearly conveyed in the Discussion Forum. To accommodate this, please request a virtual meeting (specifying whether you want to meet me or a TA) using the course email address: *cis2170@socs.uoguelph.ca* I will schedule requested meetings during my weekly office hours, TAs will schedule meetings during the scheduled labs.

If you absolutely need to communicate with me or the TAs in a private fashion, please only use the course email address: *cis2170@socs.uoguelph.ca*

Course Schedule:

Week (Monday)	Topic	Example	Lab	Example & Lab Due Date	Feedback Survey	Survey Due Date	Readings & Specs Posted
00 (11 Jan)	Course Intro	--	--	--	Survey00	11:59pm 15 Jan	15 Jan (Week 01)
01 (18 Jan)	Design Practice I	Ex01	Lab01	11:59pm 22 Jan	Survey01	11:59pm 22 Jan	22 Jan (Week 02)
02 (25 Jan)	Design Practice II	Ex02	Lab02	11:59pm 29 Jan	Survey02	11:59pm 29 Jan	29 Jan (Week 03)
03 (01 Feb)	Sketching	Ex03	Lab03	11:59pm 05 Feb	Survey03	11:59pm 05 Feb	05 Feb (Week 04)
04 (08 Feb)	Prototyping	Ex04	Lab04	11:59pm 12 Feb	Survey04	11:59pm 12 Feb	12 Feb (Week 05)
WB (15 Feb)	*Winter Break*	--	--	--	--	--	--
05 (22 Feb)	UI Components	Ex05	Lab05	11:59pm 26 Feb	Survey05	11:59pm 26 Feb	26 Feb (Week 06)
06 (01 Mar)	Colour	Ex06	Lab06	11:59pm 05 Mar	Survey06	11:59pm 05 Mar	05 Mar (Week 07)
07 (08 Mar)	Gestalt/Form	Ex07	Lab07	11:59pm 12 Mar	Survey07	11:59pm 12 Mar	12 Mar (Week 08)
08 (15 Mar)	Usability/Function	Ex08	Lab08	11:59pm 19 Mar	Survey08	11:59pm 19 Mar	19 Mar (Week 09)
09 (22 Mar)	User Studies	Ex09	Lab09	11:59pm 26 Mar	Survey09	11:59pm 26 Mar	26 Mar (Week 10)
10 (29 Mar)	Accessibility	Ex10	Lab10	11:59pm 12 Apr	Survey10	11:59pm 12 Apr	02 Apr (Week 11)
11 (05 Apr)	Personas	Ex11	Lab11	11:59pm 12 Apr	Survey11	11:59pm 12 Apr	--

Other Notes:
- First day of class is Monday, 11 January 2021.
- Labs will begin Monday, 18 January 2021.
- Winter break (no classes or labs) is 15-19 February 2021.
- There is no class or lab on Friday, 02 April 2021.
- Last day of classes/labs is Monday, 12 April 2021 (this is a make-up day for 02 April).
- The final two Examples, Labs & Surveys are due on 12 April due to the 02 April holiday.
- There is no midterm exam & no final exam for this course.

Drop Date:
Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes. 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.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 7 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. More information is available at: 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:
http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml

Recording of Materials:
Presentations which 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.

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