INF 315C – Topics in Human Computer Interaction: User Research

Unique Number: 27805

Semester: Spring, 2017

Instructor: Ramona Broussard, MSIS
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Office Hours: by appointment.

Class Time and location: T-Th, 12:30-2, GDC 5.302

Summary

The course is designed to help students to get hands-on experience with investigating and analyzing how people use designed objects. There is a growing body of work about usability, but there is no substitute for asking people what they actually think, or watching what they actually do! In this class, we will study how to do so properly.

Students will enact the following learning techniques:

We will cover a range of methods such as interviewing, surveying, diary studies, and observation. Students will read articles from important interaction design journals and conferences. Students will also conduct sample research projects using the methods we cover, as well as present the data they gather, both by writing about those data and visualizing their results with charts and other techniques.

Course prerequisites

None

Required Text

Proctor, R. W., & Van Zandt, T. (2008). *Human factors in simple and complex systems*. CRC press.

You MAY buy used, so that any version will do. We will do the work to sort out any confusion therefrom.

Supplemental Readings from journals and conferences will be available online via Canvas.

Assignments and grading

During class our time will be mainly structured around activities and discussions. At home, students will need to complete assigned readings and work on doing sample

research projects both individually and in groups. Grades will be based on 5 formal reports of these sample research projects, as well class participation and demonstrated knowledge of the readings.

Academic dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.

Late Assignments

It is important to complete your work on time, both so you can stay on track and so you can work with your fellow students. You will be docked 10% each day for every day late for any assignment. Plan ahead. This is an online course and you have between one and two weeks to ensure you complete everything on time. As there is no scheduled class time, you must be responsible for getting work done in a timely manner. There is much flexibility for when that happens throughout your schedule, so I will be very strict about excused late work.

Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.