

Interaction Design

INF 385T Fall 2020

General Information

Description: This team-oriented project course will explore several issues surrounding the design and production of usable and elegant interactive experiences. Students will be introduced to topics including the iterative design process, physical and digital prototyping, and user testing. Project work will allow students to demonstrate mastery of the methods discussed in class through the creation and evaluation of screen-based and physical interfaces. No formal programming experience is necessary or expected as students are encouraged to leverage existing skills to develop visualizations and prototypes. For projects in the digital domain, experience with Figma, HTML5, Axure, InVision or the like is helpful, but not required.

Meeting Time: Wednesday 6:30-9:30pm

Meeting Place: Online via Zoom (see Attendance subsection)

Professor

A. Fleming Seay, Ph.D.

- **Email:** Fleming_Seay@Dell.com
 - **Office Hours:** (by appointment)
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Textbook

Required?	Title	Author	Publisher
Yes	<i>Designing Interactions</i>	Bill Moggridge	MIT Press

Grading

	Due	Weight
Class Participation	~	20%
Checkpoints	10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18	10%
Final Project	12/2	40%

Grading Criteria: Performance in the course will be evaluated against the criteria listed below.

- Individual contribution to project checkpoints
- Active participation in class discussions, work-sessions, and critiques
- Rigor of design explorations
- Quality of craftsmanship and level of completion
- Team's ability to articulate process of arrival at a design solution

Course Policies

Attendance: For the Fall semester of 2020 this course is listed as a hybrid of online & in-person instruction. We will start off as online only and remain that way unless and until there is substantial improvement in the COVID-19 situation. Any in-person attendance that may be enabled through future developments in the COVID-19 situation will be completely optional and at the student's discretion.

Attendance at all online class sessions is expected. Though absence will not affect your grade directly, it will reduce your ability to participate in and contribute to group work. Multiple absences will hurt your participation grade and your peer evaluation. If you are going to miss a class, let me and your teammates know as well in advance as possible.

Canvas: The Canvas system will be used for a great deal of class business including posting and submission of assignments, class announcements, and sharing of lecture slides. Please check it often.

Laptop Policy: Students are expected to keep all laptops and tablets closed and put away during the lecture and presentation portions of the class. If anyone is standing at the front of the room addressing the group, then notebooks and mobile devices must be closed and/or stored.

Late Assignments: Assignments are due before 6:30 pm on the day of the designated class period. Late assignments will be assessed a 10% per day late penalty (penalties will accrue on Saturdays and Sundays). Early turn-in of assignments to accommodate planned absences should be arranged with the professor.

Course Schedule (Tentative)

Content	Date
Course Intro	8/26
Mood Boards	9/2
Favorite Design/Designer + Modern Interaction Research I	9/9
Douglas Engelbart, Modern Interaction & Concepts Session	9/16
Hiroshi Ishii , Contextual Design & Teams Established	9/23
Jun Rekimoto + Prototyping + Project Pitch Document	9/30
Project Progress Checkpoint I – Project Pitch Presentations	10/7
Lecture Catch Up & User Testing	10/14
Project Progress Checkpoint II	10/21
In Class Work Session	10/28
Project Progress Checkpoint III	11/4
In Class Work Session	11/11
Project Progress Checkpoint IV, End Game	11/18
Thanksgiving, No Class Meeting	11/25
Final Presentations	12/2

Other Policies & Important Information

Safety and Class Participation/Masks: To help keep everyone at UT and in our community safe, it is critical that students report COVID-19 symptoms and testing, regardless of test results, to [University Health Services](#), and faculty and staff report to the [HealthPoint Occupational Health Program](#) (OHP) as soon as possible. Please see this [link](#) to understand what needs to be reported. In addition, to help understand what to do if a fellow student in the class (or the instructor or TA) tests positive for COVID, see this [University Health Services link](#).

We will all need to make some adjustments in order to benefit from in-person classroom interactions in a safe and healthy manner. Our best protections against spreading COVID-19 on campus are masks (defined as cloth face coverings) and staying home if you are showing symptoms. Therefore, for the

benefit of everyone, this means that all students are required to follow these important rules.

- Every student must wear a cloth face-covering properly in class and in all campus buildings at all times.
- For the safety of our community, every student is strongly encouraged to do daily symptom screening, which is available using the Protect Texas Together app. Once the symptom screening is completed, it will inform students whether they are cleared to come to campus. Students should only come to campus if the symptom screening app clears them to do so. Otherwise, students should isolate and contact a medical professional for further guidance before coming to campus again.
- Information regarding [safety protocols with and without symptoms](#) can be [found here](#).

If a student is not wearing a cloth face-covering properly in the classroom (or any UT building), that student must leave the classroom (and building). If the student refuses to wear a cloth face covering, class will be dismissed for the remainder of the period, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the university's Institutional Rules/General Conduct 11-404(a)(3). Students who have a condition that precludes the wearing of a cloth face covering must follow the procedures for [obtaining an accommodation](#) working with [Services for Students with Disabilities](#).

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited: No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. Any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Title IX Reporting

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies.

Beginning January 1, 2020, Texas Senate Bill 212 requires all employees of Texas universities, including faculty, report any information to the Title IX Office regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that is disclosed to them. Texas law requires that all employees who witness or receive any information of this type (including, but not limited to, writing assignments, class discussions, or one-on-one conversations) must be reported. I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you would like to speak with someone who can provide support or remedies without making an official report to the university, please email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit <http://www.titleix.utexas.edu/>, contact the Title IX Office via email at titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

Although graduate teaching and research assistants are not subject to Texas Senate Bill 212, they are still mandatory reporters under Federal Title IX laws and are required to report a wide range of behaviors we refer to as unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, including the types of conduct covered under Texas Senate Bill 212. The Title IX office has developed supportive ways to respond to a survivor and compiled campus resources to support survivors.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the iSchool sits on indigenous land. The Tonkawa lived in central Texas and the Comanche and Apache moved through this area. Today, various indigenous peoples from all over the globe visit Austin and/or call it home. We are grateful to be able to study and learn on this piece of Turtle Island. Since some of our classes are online, you may be contributing from other tribal lands. Here is a map that may help you in identifying the indigenous peoples of the land on which you study: <https://native-land.ca/>