



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Information

LIS 5786 – INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE

SECTION(S)

TERM 20XX, COURSE MEETING DAY/TIME, COURSE MEETING LOCATION

MODE OF INSTRUCTION: ONLINE

Students all meet with instructor for class weekly, synchronously, using a multi-media conferencing system such as Collaborate, at a specific class time indicated in the University's course schedule for each semester. Additional asynchronous interactions among students and with the instructor (e.g., discussion board postings) may also be required to complete the course.

Instructor: P. Marty

Email:

Office:

Phone:

Course Location/Website:

Office Hours (in office, online or via phone):

Teaching Assistant:

Email:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an overview of the information architecture design process, from assessing user needs, through organizing information resources, to documenting the design of information systems and spaces. Students learn how to design information systems that support specific information needs, taking into account the social and organizational contexts of their users from an information architecture perspective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic concepts and terminology of information architecture;
- Develop and implement user needs assessments appropriate to different information systems;
- Integrate information organization concepts and skills into the information architecture process;
- Document and communicate the design specifications and rationale of information systems; and
- Evaluate and interpret the information architecture design process from the users' perspective.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Rosenfeld, L., Morville, P. & Arango, J. (2015). Information architecture: for the web and beyond. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media, Inc. <http://shop.oreilly.com/product/0636920034674.do>
- Additional readings will be assigned from current literature, websites, and professional blogs addressing Information Architecture and related topics.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Please see the detailed assignment descriptions on the course website; the following list is provided for quick reference:

1. First Look Screencasts:
Individual Assignment, 10 pts, throughout semester
2. Group Project Proposal:
Group Assignment, 5 pts, due end of Week 05
3. Personas and Scenarios:
Individual Assignment, 10 pts, due end of Week 06
4. Content Audit:
Group Assignment, 10 pts, due end of Week 08
5. Content Taxonomy:
Group Assignment, 20 pts, due end of Week 11
6. Sitemap:
Individual Assignment, 10 pts, due end of Week 12
7. Group Project Presentation:
Group Assignment, 5 pts, due end of Week 14
8. Wireframes:
Group Assignment, 20 pts, due end of Week 15
9. Class Participation:
Individual Assignment, 10 pts, throughout semester
Students will earn participation credit through in-class discussions, in-class activities or discussion forum postings.

GRADE CALCULATION:

The most important criteria for grading are timeliness, completeness, and quality. Please complete all parts of each assignment, and please make every effort to clearly present your thinking at each stage in the process. The effort you put into your assignments is just as important as the final outcome.

Assignments that have not been demonstrably spell-checked, grammar-checked, and proofread for absolute nonsense will not be accepted. Unacceptable assignments will receive a zero, and may be resubmitted only at the instructor's discretion. Please note that all of your work for this class must be original.

If a situation arises where you will not be able to meet a deadline, please let the instructor know well in advance. Work submitted late with a reasonable excuse will be accepted only if discussed with the instructor

before the due date.

GRADING SCALE:

The course will use the standard grading scale for courses taught at FSU:

A	93 – 100	C	73 – 76
A-	90 – 92	C-	70 – 72
B+	87 – 89	D+	67 – 69
B	83 – 86	D	63 – 66
B-	80 – 82	D-	60 – 62
C+	77 – 79	F	0 – 59

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Please see the detailed course calendar on the course website; the following list is provided for quick reference (15 weeks):

1. Introduction to Information Architecture
2. Understanding Users, Part 1:
Designing for Understanding
3. Understanding Users, Part 2:
Research Strategies
4. Understanding Users, Part 3:
Personas and Scenarios
5. Organizing Information, Part 1:
Systems, Software, and Tools
6. Organizing Information, Part 2:
Thesauri, Controlled Vocabularies, Schemas, and Metadata
7. Organizing Information, Part 3:
Browsing, Navigation, Labeling, and Taxonomies
8. Organizing Information, Part 4:
Searching and Information Retrieval Systems
9. Organizing Information, Part 5:
Social Tagging and User-Based Content Systems
10. Documenting Design, Part 1:
Sitemaps and Interactive Sketching
11. Documenting Design, Part 2:
Wireframing and Interaction Design
12. Documenting Design, Part 3:
Information Architecture in Practice
13. Group Project Studio Workshop
14. Group Project Presentations
15. Wrap-up and Conclusions

SCHOOL OR DISCIPLINARY POLICIES:

Copyright Statement

Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with, and for the duration of, the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Technology, Education, And Copyright Harmonization (TEACH) Act (refer to the 3/7/2001 TEACH Act at www.copyright.gov/legislation/archive/).

Sexual Harassment Policy

It is the policy of the University that its employees and students neither commit nor condone sexual harassment in any form. http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/graduate/information/university_notices/

iSchool Hardware and Software Requirements

A list of all hardware and software requirements for students participating in the School of Information (iSchool) courses can be found at the following location:

<http://ischool.cci.fsu.edu/academics/online/requirements/>

Student Eligibility for an Incomplete Grade

Incomplete ("I") grades will not be assigned, except in the case of exceptional unforeseen circumstances that occur within the last three weeks of the semester and your work has otherwise been satisfactory (C average).

University Attendance Policy:

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy:

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>.)

Americans With Disabilities Act:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Syllabus Change Policy

"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."