



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Information

LIS 5275– USABILITY ANALYSIS

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 instructor will be required, as indicated below in course evaluation and assessments, to complete the course.

Instructor:

Email:

Office:

Phone:

Course Location/Website:

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

Teaching Assistant:

Email:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a comprehensive overview of usability analysis and its role in user-centered design. The course has been designed to familiarize students with the concepts and procedures necessary to incorporate usability analysis into the information systems design process. At the end of the course, students will possess both the resources and skills necessary to conduct usability analyses and evaluate information systems from a user-centered design perspective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic concepts and terminology of usability engineering and user-centered design;
2. Critically analyze and assess an information system from a usability perspective;
3. Conduct usability evaluations with or without test users;
4. Effectively report the findings of usability testing and recommend improvements to product usability; and
5. Use feedback from usability evaluations to iteratively design and develop interfaces to information systems.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required text for this course; there will be required readings each week as assigned and posted to the course website.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

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

1. Designing for Users: Individual Assignment, 10 pts, due end of Week 2
 2. User Profiles and Scenarios of Use: Group Assignment, 10 pts, due end of Week 4
 3. Heuristic Evaluation: Individual Assignment, 15 pts, due end of Week 6
 4. Representative Users and Tasks: Group Assignment, 10 pts, due end of Week 8
 5. Representative User Test: Individual Assignment, 20 pts, due end of Week 10
 6. Iterative Design Project: Group Assignment, 20 pts, due end of Week 14
 7. Class Participation: Individual Assignment, 15 pts, throughout semester
- Class participation is required for everyone. This means you need to engage in the class discussion at least once, online during each week's synchronous class meeting. Please note that participation means making a meaningful contribution to an ongoing, online discussion; simply logging on to class or agreeing as another student has the microphone does not count as participation. You have two free passes for the semester -- no explanation needed -- and of course you won't be penalized for a legitimate, excused absence (just drop me an email explaining what is happening). Each online session of non-participation (beyond the two free passes and excused absences) will subtract a point from your class participation grade.

GRADE CALCULATION:

All grades will be given either on a 4-point letter scale or on a 100-point scale:

A 93 – 100	A- 89 – 92
B+ 85 – 88	B 81 – 84
B- 77 – 80	C+ 73 – 76
C 69 – 72	C- 65 – 68
D+ 61 – 64	D 57 – 60
D- 53 – 56	F 0 – 52

COURSE OUTLINE:

- Case studies in the cultural dimensions of information management and access
- Introduction to the concept of “Information Society”
- National profiles: using statistical sources
- Physical, social, and intellectual access to information
- Information management
- Information infrastructures

- Comparative analysis
- Technological infrastructure
- Information ethics
- Information policy
- Libraries
- Future directions

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

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>.)

Plagiarism

Plagiarism of any type, including material from Internet sources, will not be tolerated. Cases of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating will be investigated & pursued vigorously according to departmental and (if needed) university procedures. Before submitting any work for this class, please read the "Academic Honor System" in its entirety (see link above) and ask me to clarify any of its expectations that you do not understand.

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 advanced notice.

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).