Unit Outline: KXC358 Human-Computer Interaction

September 2007 - February 2008
Hangzhou, China

Prerequisites
KXC156 or KXC281

Corequisites
None

Unit Weight
12.5% of one academic year

Unit Coordinator
Doug Colbeck

Lecturing Staff
Dr. Hu Yahong

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Scheduled Teaching Sessions
Lectures: 3hr/week (or equivalent)
Tutorials: 1 hr/week (or equivalent) from week 2

Unit Website
The unit website is accessed from http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/. You will need to use your University of Tasmania email pop account username and password to log on to the WebCT system. Once authenticated by the system your personalised MyWebCT area will be displayed. It contains links to the websites that you have permission to access - including the website for this unit.

This unit is Web Dependent: content. This means that you will need to use the Web for this unit. The unit website contains unit information and resources.
If you are not able to access the unit website, please contact the technical staff at ZUT.

University Website
Information and Resources for 'Current Students' are available on the university website at: http://www.utas.edu.au/students/

Provider
School of Computing - Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

OVERVIEW

Introduction
Looks at the development of multimedia and web-based applications with respect to principles of human–computer interface design. Lectures cover information design, interaction design, screen design and issues related to educational and commercial software and web sites. Human-computer interaction, user-centred design, usability issues and user evaluations are the basis of both lecture content and practical exercises. Students complete design tasks, interpretive evaluations and web site reviews as part of the practical requirement of this unit.

Prior Learning
A good level of information technology familiarity would be advisable, as much of this unit is dependant on students being able to effectively and efficiently operate using online search engines and similar resources.

Objectives
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. appreciate HCI as a discipline as well as trends within the discipline
2. explain the individual characteristics of people and why (and how) these should be considered in the development of interfaces
3. describe how information on screens should be structured and presented
4. explain processes involved in the development of software such as screen design, storyboard design, and field testing
5. appreciate HCI issues beyond traditional user-screen interaction

Unit Content

Information Design:
1. Human development
2. Learning styles
3. Models of learning
4. Information organisation

Interaction Design:
1. Interaction Styles
2. Graphical User Interfaces
3. Navigation

Interface Design:
1. Screen design
2. Menus and Window design
3. Icon and Metaphor design
LEARNING AND TEACHING

Approach to Learning

You are expected to spend about 130 hrs studying in this unit - this includes attendance at scheduled teaching sessions. (For a 13 week semester this is, on average, 10 hr/wk.) This is the amount of study time that the 'typical' student will need to reach the level of competence and understanding required to fulfil the unit objectives.

You are expected to:

- attend all scheduled lectures and tutorials, unless otherwise notified by the unit coordinator
- prepare for, and actively participate in lectures and tutorials
- complete the assigned learning tasks
- review what has been learnt
- complete assessment items and submit them on time
- access and be familiar with the information and resources available on the unit website
- seek help from teaching staff if you have any questions or difficulties in studying this unit

You are encouraged to read the university’s Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning. Part A describes the 'Responsibility of the University to Students' and part B describes the 'Responsibilities of Students to the University'. [http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/policies/codes.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/policies/codes.html)

Schedule

See the 'Schedule' section on the unit website.

Teaching and Support Staff

Teaching Staff

Unit Coordinator:

Doug Colbeck
E-Mail: Doug.Colbeck@utas.edu.au

Lecturing Staff

Dr. Hu Yahong
Telephone: +86 571 88320869
Email: huyahong@zjut.edu.cn

School Help Desk

Contact technical staff at ZUT for information about accessing and using the Computer labs.

University Services and Support

The University has staff available to assist you, such as the:

- Learning Development Advisor
- Student Counselor
- Careers Advisor
- Disability Officer

For more information and contact details see the Services and Support section on the University 'Current Students' web page. [http://www.utas.edu.au/students/](http://www.utas.edu.au/students/)

Resources

Unit Website
The unit website contains unit information and resources.

**Prescribed Text**

No Prescribed Text

**Readings**

Recommended texts:


Other readings will be made available by the unit coordinator and lecturer.

**Software**

The software that you will need to access the unit website and to study this unit, including general purpose software such as word processors, is provided on the computers in the computing labs. If you intend to use software on other computers please check that the versions are compatible.

### ASSESSMENT

| Assessment Items | Item 1 | Title: Usability Assignment  
| Type: In-Semester - individual assignment  
| Weighting: 5%  
| Due: 3pm Wed 10/10/2007 (week4) |
| Item 2 | Title: Project Assignment  
| Type: In-Semester - individual assignment  
| Weighting: 15%  
| Due: 3pm Wed 28/11/2007 (Week 11) |
| Item 3 | Title: Interpretive Evaluation  
| Type: In-Semester - individual assignment  
| Weighting: 5%  
| Due: 3pm Wed 12/12/2007 (Week 13) |
| Item 4 | Title: Website Review Assignment  
| Type: In-Semester - individual assignment  
| Weighting: 5%  
| Due: 3pm Wed 26/12/2007 (Week 15) |
| Item 5 | Title: 3 hr Examination  
| Type: Formal Examination  
| Weighting: 70%  
| Due: University Examination Period |

A single A4 sheet with hand written notes (IN ENGLISH, NOT TYPED or PHOTOCOPIED) on both sides may be taken into the examination and must be submitted with the answer books.

See the 'Assessment' section in unit website for more detailed information about assessment items.

**In-Semester Assessment**

Unless specifically stated in the specification of the assessment item provided on the unit website, it is required that:

- work submitted by a student is the work of that student alone OR
- where the assessment item is to be completed by a group of students, the work submitted by the group of students is the work of that group of students alone.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own, for example:

- using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source;
- using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation; or
- copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at [http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html).

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see
The University reserves the right to submit assignments to plagiarism detection software, and might then retain a copy of the assignment on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking.

**Referencing**

The university document on plagiarism contains information about referencing the work or ideas of others. (See [http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism/](http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism/).) The preferred text referencing systems for the School is the Harvard system (also referred to as the author-date system).

**Submissions**

The details of the submission method (paper, electronic or other) for each assignment will be supplied in a separate assignment specification sheet. All in-semester assignment submissions (including electronic submissions) are to include an Assignment Cover Sheet which includes a statement confirming that the submission is your own work. If this undertaking is not signed, the assignment will not be marked. The Assignment Cover Sheet is available on the School’s web site [http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/studyresources.jsp](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/studyresources.jsp).

**Extensions**

Assessment items will not be accepted after the due date except under the conditions stated in the school policy on late assessment. [http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/late_assess.jsp](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/late_assess.jsp)

**Formal Examination**

The formal examination will be held at ZUT, Hangzhou, and is conducted by the University Registrar.

**Final Grade**

Overall assessment will be based on the student’s performance throughout the semester as well as in a formal examination. In order to achieve a pass (or better) result, a student must obtain:

1. at least 45% of the total mark for in-semester assessment items
2. at least 45% of the mark for the formal examination
3. at least 50% of the overall mark

In order to comply with the benchmarks set by the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology for distribution of grades in units, both the in-semester and examination marks that students obtain may be adjusted either upwards or downwards. See [http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/scieng/scieng/policies.asp](http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/scieng/scieng/policies.asp) for details of the Faculty Assessment Guidelines.

Passing grades will be awarded based on the AVCC guidelines:

- PP at least 50% of the overall mark but less than 60%
- CR at least 60% of the overall mark but less than 70%
- DN at least 70% of the overall mark but less than 80%
- HD at least 80% of the overall mark

The maximum mark awarded to a student who fails the unit will be 44.

For more information, including other grades such as Supplementary and Terminating grades, see the School of Computing’s guidelines for assessment - available at: [http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/assess.jsp](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/assess.jsp)