Unit Outline: KXA403 Computing in Context

Semester 2, 2007

Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart
Newnham Campus, Launceston

Prerequisites
None

Corequisites
None

Unit Weight
12.5% of one academic year

Unit Coordinator
Prof. Christopher Lueg

Scheduled Teaching Sessions
Seminars: fortnightly or upon request by students

Unit Website
The unit website is accessed from [http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/](http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/). You will need to use your university email pop account username and password to log on to the MyLO system. Once authenticated by the system your personalised MyLO Learning Online 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 Supplemented. This means that the use of the Web is optional for this unit. The unit website contains unit information and resources. If you are not able to access the unit website, please contact the University IT help desk:

- Entrance Level, Morris Miller Library, Sandy Bay Campus;
- Entrance Level, Launceston Campus Library, Newnham Campus.
- Telephone: 6226 1818 and 1300 304 903.
- The 1300 number is a local call from within Tas, with the exception of mobiles.
- Email: servicedesk@utas.edu.au

University Website
Information and Resources for ‘Current Students’ are available on the university website at: [http://www.utas.edu.au/students/](http://www.utas.edu.au/students/)

Provider
School of Computing and Information Systems - Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Technology. [http://www.cis.utas.edu.au](http://www.cis.utas.edu.au)

OVERVIEW

Introduction
In this research-oriented unit we take the context of computing activities explicitly into account when looking at selected technologies that are typically associated with human computer interaction (HCI), computer-supported cooperative work (CSCW) or ubiquitous computing. ‘Research-oriented” means that researching a specific topic on an individual basis and presenting the results in a coherent scientific way to staff and fellow students is a major component of this unit.

Prior Learning
No specific prior knowledge is needed but curiosity and an interest in exploring advanced topics in a scientific way is highly recommended. Students are assumed to be competent graduates in computing or other disciplines concerned with the use of technology in context. Students need to familiarize themselves with academic writing, referencing and citation standards in order to pass the unit. The lecturer is happy to assist if there are any questions.

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

- use a range of different information sources when researching a topic and critically evaluate them,
- research and critically evaluate a technology and its proposed and/or actual context of use,
- critically evaluate statements regarding specific technology
- present research results in a coherent scientific way both in writing and to an audience
Unit Content
For more information see the section titled 'Content' on the unit website.

Generic Skills
The university has defined a set of generic graduate attributes expected in its graduates. http://www.utas.edu.au/policy/subject.html#graduates Your course is designed to enable you to develop generic skills that are valued in, and expected of, graduates. These are skills that you will need to develop over time. Hence you are encouraged to look for opportunities, as you study each unit, to reflect on and improve these skills.

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 seminars, unless otherwise notified by the unit coordinator
- prepare for, and actively participate in seminars
- 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

Schedule
See the 'Schedule' section on the unit website.

Presentations are expected to be held in block mode towards the end of the semester (schedule tba). During the semester class and/or individual sessions will be used for guiding students and answering questions.

Teaching and Support Staff

Teaching Staff

Unit Coordinator:
Prof. Christopher Lueg
E-Mail: Christopher.Lueg@utas.edu.au
Phone: 2911 email pref'd!
Room: 463, Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart

School Help Desk

Contact the School Help Desk if you have any queries or problems with accessing, using, or printing from the computers in the School of Computing and Information Systems labs.

- **Hobart**: the Help Desk is located near the School's reception desk and is open from 10am - 4pm Monday-Friday. The phone number is 6226 2960.
- **Launceston**: the Help Desk is located near the entrance to the computing labs and is open in the morning from 10am - 12pm, and in the afternoon from 2pm - 4:30pm, Monday-Thursday. On Fridays it is open from 10am - 12pm in the morning and 2pm - 4pm in the afternoon. The phone number is 6324 3447.
- **Burnie**: the computer labs at the Cradle Coast Campus are maintained by ITS. Please contact the University Help Desk for assistance. If you have a query or problem that is specific to the School of Computing and Information Systems please phone the School of Computing and Information Systems Help Desk in Launceston.

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/

Resources

Unit Website

The unit website contains unit information and resources.
Prescribed Text

None

Readings

Recommended reading:
Interaction Design
Preece, Rogers, Sharp
Wiley 2002

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 School's computing labs. If you intend to use software on other computers please check that the versions are compatible.

Computing Facilities

The School has PC labs (Windows XP), Mac labs (Mac OS-X 10.5), and Networking labs at the Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses. Unix accounts can be accessed from all Macs and PCs.

If you have not used these facilities before please contact the School Help Desk to organise your account details. If you would like to access the facilities at the Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses after hours please contact the School Help Desk.

Please contact the School Help Desk if you have difficulty accessing or using these facilities.

Use of Facilities

Use of computing facilities provided by the School is subject to the School's Ethics Guidelines - http://www.cis.utas.edu.au/cisview/ethics.jsp. Copies of the guidelines are also available in all School labs. The School's facilities may only be used for study-related purposes, and may not be used for personal gain. The playing of games is strictly prohibited in all labs at all times. Before being granted access to the School's facilities, you will be required to sign a declaration that you have read and understand these guidelines, and that you will abide by them. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate the guidelines.

Occupational Health and Safety

The university is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. For more information see http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Items

Item 1
Title: Assignment 1
Type: In-Semester - individual assignment
Weighting: 20%
Due: 3pm, Monday 13/08/07

2-page progress report providing a rough summary of the topic and a detailed list of the resources used to research the topic (mandatory to obtain at least a pass in this assessment item to pass the unit).

Item 2
Title: Assignment 2
Type: In-Semester - individual assignment
Weighting: 50%
Due: 3pm, Monday 24/09/07

8-page conference-style paper summarizing results obtained during the semester in a comprehensive and academically sound way. Requirements include appropriate coverage and depth, proper referencing, proper language and grammar (mandatory to obtain at least a pass in this assessment item to pass the unit).

Item 3
Title: Presentation of research topic and findings
Type: In-Semester - individual assignment
Weighting: 30%
Due: 3pm, Monday 01/10/07 (changes poss.)

Complete presentation material to be used to present topic and findings to be submitted. Submission package includes the material to be used in the presentation (eg powerpoint slides) and a 1-page summary for attendees to take home. A slot of about
20min for presenting the material will be determined. The presentation is part of this assessment item (mandatory to obtain at least a pass in this assessment item to pass the unit).

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 [http://www.utas.edu.au/policy/subject.html#students](http://www.utas.edu.au/policy/subject.html#students).

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 from the School Help Desk in Launceston and Hobart, and on the School’s web site [http://www.cis.utas.edu.au/cisview/studyresources.jsp](http://www.cis.utas.edu.au/cisview/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.cis.utas.edu.au/cisview/late_assess.jsp](http://www.cis.utas.edu.au/cisview/late_assess.jsp)

**Final Grade**

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.cis.utas.edu.au/cisview/assess.jsp](http://www.cis.utas.edu.au/cisview/assess.jsp)