Nova Southeastern University
Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences

Course Syllabus
DCIS 720/820 Human Computer Interaction (720 – 4 credits, 820 – 4 credits)

Spring Cluster 2009, March 6, 2009 – August 5, 2009

Instructor: Maxine S. Cohen, Professor
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Class Location and Format: on campus, March 6-8, June 5-7
Class Hours: mornings

Course Descriptions: See course catalog

Required Textbook:
A general text and access to the conference proceedings are both required.

Designing the User Interface, 5th edition
Ben Shneiderman and Catherine Plaisant
Addison-Wesley, 2010
ISBN 10: 0321537351
ISBN 13: 9780321537355

AND

Conference Proceedings
Access to one of the latest ACM SIGCHI conference proceedings. The 2008
proceedings have been published and are now available through the ACM Digital Library.
All ACM SIGCHI conference proceedings are also available directly from the ACM
store (http://www.acm.org). Sometimes proceedings may be available through the
normal book supplier channels. (Students should not order the extended
abstracts.)

CHI 2008 Conference Proceedings
ACM Press, 2008
ISBN: 978-1605580111

CHI 2007 Conference Proceedings
ACM Press, 2007
ISBN: 978-1-59593-593-9

CHI 2006 Conference Proceedings
ACM Press, 2006
ISBN: 1-59593-178-3

CHI 2005 Conference Proceedings
ACM Press, 2005
ISBN: 1-58113-998-5

CHI 2004 Conference Proceedings
ACM Press, 2004
ISBN: 1-58113-702-8

Exit Competencies:
The goal of this course is to provide the student with a basic knowledge of human-computer interaction as a distinct discipline and to investigate specific issues involving human-computer interaction and user interface design.

Upon completion of the 720 course the student will:

1. Gain insight into the field of human-computer interaction.

2. Understand how interface design practices and methods can be integrated with user-centered principles and methods now being employed.

3. Identify current trends in HCI research.

4. Understand the nature of the HCI design process. Apply an integrated perspective to the design process.

5. Understand the difficulties and pitfalls of translating theory and principles derived from research findings, into practical advice on user-centered design.

6. Apply metaphorical reasoning and conceptual models to user interface design.

7. Explore strategies for improving web site usability.

8. Describe the major aspects of usability engineering.

9. Apply usability and design principles to the evaluation of current interfaces.

10. Apply suitable methods for collecting users' requirements and analyzing users' tasks.

11. Perform usability analyses and evaluate product designs.

12. Synthesize the HCI research literature effectively.

13. Write scholarly article reviews and quality papers related to HCI.

14. Effectively use online collaboration/sharing tools.

Upon completion of the 820 course the student will:

1. Delve deeply into a specific area of HCI research and write a research paper on an HCI area of current research OR design and develop a prototype HCI system.

Course Outline:
In-Class Activities: Selected topics will be introduced through lecture and discussions during the class meetings. The concepts and applications presented in the lectures are major issues covered in the required texts and other HCI resources. In addition, students will have the opportunity to further investigate areas of their own interests related to HCI. The readings from the CHI conferences and other supplemental readings provide advanced approaches to human-computer interaction and user interface design, thereby providing students with a deeper conceptual framework of most current issues being raised in the HCI community today.

On-line Activities: Students will contribute to the HCI Discussion Groups (via WebCT) at designated times throughout the term. Contributions will count as points toward the class participation grade. Periodic online synchronous discussions may be scheduled. There may be use and integration of Web 2.0 tools.

Instruction Methods and Tools:
WebCT will be used to submit assignments. The WebCT discussion forums will be used as the primary tool in carrying out online discussions. Various synchronous chat sessions may be held. If held, they will be optional and recorded. WebCT email will **not** be used. Regular email should be used to correspond with the professor. Email and the discussion forums will be the primary means of communication between teacher and students. (see school policy #4)

There are additional HCI related links that are provided on Dr. Cohen's web page. Other links may be posted in various places as the term progresses.

Assignments:
The major DCIS 720 course requirement consists of three assignments and participation on the online discussion forums:

Assignment #1: Heuristic Eval and Journal article reviews. Due date is week of **Monday, April 13 (Sunday April 19, 11:55 pm).**

Assignment #2: Mini-research paper. Due date is week of **Monday, June 15 (Sunday, June 21, 11:55 pm).**

Assignment #3: Conduct and report a usability test. Due date is week of **Monday, July 20 (Sunday, July 26, 11:55 pm).**

Forum Postings: Various topics over the course of the term with varied due dates.

The major DCIS 820 course requirement consists of three assignments:
Idea Paper: A short description of the topic to be explored as part of the project. Due date is week of **Monday, March 30 (Sunday, April 5, 11:55 pm).**

Proposal: A proposal describing what will be done as part of the project requirements for the course. Due date is week of **Monday, May 11 (Sunday, May 17, 11:55 pm)**.

Final Report: A detailed description describing the final project. Due date is week of **Monday, July 6 (Sunday, July 12, 11:55 pm)**.

IMPORTANT: Specific instructions for completing these assignments are contained in additional class handouts. Assignments must be submitted according to the due dates specified in the syllabus. Late assignments must be pre-approved by the professor in advance and will most likely result in point reduction. See Late Policy section, below. All assignments must be double-spaced and adhere to the format prescribed by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the SCIS Dissertation Guide. All assignments require outside research and activity. All assignments will be submitted using WebCT.

Grading Criteria:
DCIS 720:

Assignment #1	25
Assignment #2	25
Assignment #3	30
Forum Participation	20

Total	100

DCIS 820:

Idea Paper:	10
Proposal:	20
Final Report:	70

Total   100

A   93-100
A-...................   90-92
B+.................   87-89
B...................   83-86
B-.................…   80-82
C+.................   77-79
C...................   73-76
C-……………   70-72
F.....................   less than 70

State (from Catalog): "A student may not do additional work or repeat an examination to raise a final grade."

Late Policy
It is expected that work be submitted on time, but the instructor realizes that exceptional situations do occur.

The late policy is as follows:
1. Late work will be accepted, but only if arrangements are made with the professor in advance
2. For work 1-2 weeks late, there will be a 15% penalty
3. For work 3-4 weeks late, there will be a 30% penalty
4. Work later than 4 weeks will not be accepted.

Class/Course Rules:
Mutual respect and courtesy.

The SCIS Dissertation Guide or the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (Fifth Edition) should be used as a guide for form, style, and general writing principles in the preparations of papers and reports.

If a student wishes to have the instructor re-evaluate the student's work that re-evaluation will occur at the discretion of the professor. The re-evaluation may occur as late as the end of the term. The instructor reserves the right to lower or raise the student's initial evaluation.

Overuse of direct quotes is not acceptable for any material submitted for this course. Direct quotes should be used sparingly. Points will be reduced if excessive direct quoting is used. Students should paraphrase and properly cite the work.

A student may neither do additional work nor repeat work to raise their grade.

No work from another course may be used in this course. If a student builds upon some previous work the professor must be made aware of the situation and the extent of the new work.

Literature research beyond that given and explicitly discussed in class is expected as part of this course. The course readings and textbooks should be seen as a starting point for the student's work and research.

Carefully follow the course guide and all handouts and related instructions. This course is a graduate level doctoral course and relevant and appropriate scholarly work should be submitted.

Other Policies: See policy paragraphs below and the SCIS Graduate Catalog.

Bibliography: See course booklet and WebCT page.

School and University Policies and Procedures:

Students must comply with the policies published in the school's *Graduate Catalog* and the *NSU Student Handbook*, some of which are included or referenced below. The catalog is at http://www.scis.nova.edu/NSS/pdf_documents/Catalog.pdf. The handbook is at http://www.nova.edu/cwis/studentaffairs/forms/ustudenthandbook.pdf.

1. Standards of Academic Integrity For the university-wide policy on academic standards, see the section Code of Student Conduct and Academic Responsibility in the *NSU Student Handbook*. Also see the section Student Misconduct in the GSCIS catalog. Each student is responsible for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in his or her academic work. It is the policy of the school that each student must:

- Submit his or her own work, not that of another person

- Not falsify data or records (including admission materials and academic work)

- Not engage in cheating (e.g., giving or receiving help during examinations; acquiring and/or transmitting test questions prior to an examination; or using unauthorized materials, such as notes, during an examination)

- Not receive or give aid on assigned work that requires independent effort

- Properly credit the words or ideas of others according to accepted standards for professional publications (see the next section *Crediting the Words or Ideas of Others*)

- Not use or consult paper writing services, software coding services, or similar services for the purpose of obtaining assistance in the preparation of of materials to be submitted for course assignments or for theses or dissertations.

- Not commit plagiarism (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (2004) defines plagiarism as "stealing or passing off ideas or words of another as one's own" and "the use of a created production without crediting the source.") (see *Crediting the*

Words or Ideas of Others below)

Crediting the Words or Ideas of Others

When using the exact words of another, quotation marks must be used for short quotations (fewer than 40 words), and block quotation style must be used for longer quotations. In either case, a proper citation must also be provided. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Fifth Edition,* (2001, pp. 117 and 292) contains standards and examples on quotation methods.

When paraphrasing (summarizing, or rewriting) the words or ideas of another, a proper citation must be provided. (*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Fifth Edition* (2001) contains standards and examples on citation methods (pp. 207–214) and reference lists (pp. 215–281)). The *New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* (1993) defines paraphrase as "An expression in other words, usually fuller and clearer, of the sense of a written or spoken passage or text…Express the meaning (of a word, phrase, passage, or work) in other words, usually with the object of clarification…". Changing word order, deleting words, or substituting synonyms is not acceptable paraphrasing—it is plagiarism, even when properly cited. Rather than make changes of this nature, the source should be quoted as written.

Original Work

Assignments, exams, projects, papers, theses, dissertations, etc., must be the original work of the student. Original work may include the thoughts and words of others but such thoughts or words must be identified using quotation marks or indentation and must properly identify the source (see the previous section *Crediting the Words or Ideas of Others*). At all times, students are expected to comply with the school's accepted citation practice and policy.

Work is not original when it has been submitted previously by the author or by anyone else for academic credit. Work is not original when it has been copied or partially copied from any other source, including another student, unless such copying is acknowledged by the person submitting the work for the credit at the time the work is being submitted, or unless copying, sharing, or joint authorship is an express part of the assignment. Exams and tests are original work when no unauthorized aid is given, received, or used before or during the course of the examination, reexamination, and/or remediation.

2. Writing Skills

Students must demonstrate proficiency in the use of the English language. Grammatical errors, spelling errors, and writing that fails to express ideas clearly will affect their grades and the completion of their academic programs. The faculty will not provide remedial help concerning grammatical errors or other writing difficulties. It is the student's responsibility to proofread and edit his or her work which, in both form and content, should be letter-perfect. Work that is not properly edited will be rejected. It is university policy that students must submit their own work, not that of another person. Consequently, they should refrain from using outside editors to redo their work.

Several books contain general guidelines for writing. *On Writing Well* (Zinsser, 2006) is an excellent guide to clear, logical, and organized writing. *The Elements of Style* (Strunk and White, 2000) is a compact handbook on the basic principles of composition, grammar, word usage and writing style. The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) (2001), a comprehensive handbook on writing for publication, addresses editorial style, grammar, and organization. Give particular attention to Chapter 1, Content and Organization of a Manuscript; Chapter 2, Expressing Ideas and Reducing Bias in Language; and Chapter 3, APA Editorial Style. Chapter 2 also has good advice on writing style and grammar. Another excellent handbook on writing for publication is *The Chicago Manual of Style* (2003). The APA manual and the Chicago manual contain guidance on punctuation, spelling, capitalization, abbreviations, quotations, numbers, statistical and mathematical material, tables, figures, footnotes, appendixes, and reference citations in text. Students should use a good dictionary such as *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (11th ed.).

3. Disabilities and ADA

NSU complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The university's detailed policy on disabilities is contained in the NSU *Student Handbook.* Student requests for accommodation based on ADA will be considered on an individual basis. Students with disabilities should discuss their needs with their academic advisors before the commencement of classes if possible.

4. Communication by Email

Students must use their NSU email accounts when sending email to faculty and staff and must clearly identify their names and other appropriate information, e.g., course or program. When communicating with students via email, faculty and staff members will send mail only to NSU email accounts using NSU-recognized usernames. Students who forward their NSU-generated email to other email accounts do so at their own risk. GSCIS uses various course management tools that use private internal email systems. Students enrolled in courses using these tools should check both the private internal email system and NSU's regular email system. NSU offers students web-based email access. Students are encouraged to check their NSU email account and their course management email daily.

5. The Temporary Grade of Incomplete (I)

The temporary grade of Incomplete (I) will be granted only in cases of extreme hardship. Students do not have a right to an incomplete, which may be granted only when there is evidence of just cause. A student desiring an incomplete must submit a written appeal to the course professor at least two weeks prior to the end of the term. In the appeal, the student must: (1) provide a rationale; (2) demonstrate that he/she has been making a sincere effort to complete the assignments during the term; and (3) explain how all the possibilities to complete the assignments on time have been exhausted. Should the course professor agree, an *incomplete contract* will be prepared by the student and signed by both student and professor. The *incomplete contract* must contain a description of the work to be completed and a timetable. The completion period should be the shortest possible. In no case may the

completion date extend beyond 30 days from the last day of the term for master's courses or beyond 60 days from the last day of the term for doctoral courses. The *incomplete contract* will accompany the submission of the professor's final grade roster to the program office. The program office will monitor each *incomplete contract*. If a change-of-grade form is not submitted by the scheduled completion date, the grade will be changed automatically from I to F. No student may graduate with an I on his or her record.

6. Grade Policy Regarding Withdrawals

Course withdrawal requests must be submitted to the program office in writing by the student. Requests for withdrawal must be received by the program office by the calendar midpoint of the course (see dates in the academic calendar in the catalog and program brochures or websites). Withdrawals sent by email must be sent from the student's assigned NSU email account. Requests for withdrawal received after 11:59 p.m. EST on the withdrawal deadline date will not be accepted. Failure to attend class or participate in course activities will not automatically drop or withdraw a student from the class or the university. Students who have not withdrawn by the withdrawal deadline will receive letter grades that reflect their performance in the course. When a withdrawal request is approved, the transcript will show a grade of W (*Withdrawn*) for the course. *Students with four withdrawals will be dismissed from the program.* Depending on the date of withdrawal, the student may be eligible for a partial refund (see the appropriate catalog section Refund Policy Regarding Withdrawals).

7. Acceptable Use of Computing Resources

Students must comply with the university's *Policy on Acceptable Use of Computing Resources* (see *NSU Student Handbook*).

8. Academic Progress, Grade Requirements, and Academic Standing

Students must be familiar with the school's policies which are contained in its catalog.

9. Student Research Involving Human Subjects

Students must be familiar with the university's policy (see paragraph in catalog).

10. Responsibility for Payment of Tuition and Fees

Once registered, students are personally responsible for the payment of their tuition and fees. Returned checks, cancelled credit cards, employer or agency refusal to pay, ineligibility for financial aid, and other reasons for non-payment may result in a direct bill to the student, and/or referral to a collection agency.

Payment and refund policies are based on the view that a student registering for a class is reserving a place in that class and that tuition and fees cover the opportunity to secure that place in the class. Since no other person can purchase that place, the student is responsible for the tuition and fees associated with it. Simply not attending does not constitute a reason for non-payment.