

**Course Description: Human-Computer Interaction**  
(SYST 469-001; Fall 2008)

**Instructor:** Jack Laveson, Ph.D. CPE CHFP  
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**Text:** J. Preece, Y. Rogers, & H. Sharp. *Interaction Design: Beyond Human-Computer Interaction* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition.). Wiley & Sons, 2007.

**Prerequisites:** IT 108 and IT/STAT 250

**This course will cover the principles of human-computer interaction:** including information processing design, cognitive models, ergonomics, and design metaphors. Students will learn to evaluate interface design in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, and cost. At the end of the course, students will understand the basic concepts and principles of human-computer interaction, be able to recognize good and bad interaction designs, and be able to evaluate interactive products. (*Systems engineering majors cannot take this course for credit toward their major. They need to take SYST 470.*)

**Student Evaluation Criteria**

Midterm Exam	35%
Class Project	25%
Final Exam	40%

I use the full grading scale, including pluses and minuses (A - 90-100; B - 80-89; C -70-79; D 60-69; F - below 60). The exams will cover material presented in the text and class. The exams are closed-book and closed-notes. The exam questions will be short-answer in format. There will be a question & answer review period the session before the exams. Laptops cannot be used to take the exams. Students are expected to complete all requirements (mid-term exam, final exam, class project); a grade of zero will be assigned for any incomplete requirement unless prior arrangements are made for a make-up

Students will work in groups (of their choosing) to complete the class project. The project needs to be an evaluation of two or more existing interactive products. The projects need to be guided by user requirements and usability goals and use knowledge learned from class to determine if there are significant differences in the usability of the products. Each team will make a 15-minute presentation describing their project. You should discuss you presentation topic with me to make sure it is acceptable. Three-person teams might be acceptable if the project is adequately large in scope or if students need teammates.

All students must abide by the GMU Honor Code. Each student is required to sign and return an Honor Code pledge at the beginning of this course. The last page of this syllabus contains the code. I will review the Honor Code including a discussion of when student collaboration is allowed or not allowed.

SYLLABUS:  
Human-Computer Interaction (SYST 469-001)  
Robinson B 228  
Monday, 4:30 PM – 7:10 PM

Week 1	(8/25)	What is interaction design? (Ch. 1)
Week 2	(9/1)	<b>Labor Day, university closed</b>
Week 3	(9/8)	Understanding and conceptualizing interaction (Ch. 2)
Week 4	(9/15)	Understanding users (Ch. 3)
Week 5	(9/22)	Identifying needs and establishing requirements (Ch 10)
Week 6	(9/29)	<b>No class – instructor religious observance</b>
Week 7	(10/6)	Prototyping (Ch 11)
Week 8	(10/14)	Introducing evaluation (Ch. 12), Evaluation framework (Ch. 13) & Review for Mid-Term Exam <b>Note that class meets on Tuesday</b>
Week 9	(10/20)	Mid-Term Exam
Week 10	(10/27)	Usability testing and field studies (Ch. 14)
Week 11	(11/3)	Data gathering (Ch. 7)
Week 12	(11/10)	Analytical evaluation (Ch. 15 up to page 706)
Week 13	(11/17)	The process of interaction design (Ch 9)
Week 14	(11/24)	Student presentations
Week 15	(12/1)	Student presentations and Review for Final Exam
Week 16	(12/15)	Final Exam (only on material after the mid-term)

**Please read the following GMU Honor Code and sign at that the end that you have read it. It is expected that you abide completely with the provisions provided herein:**

### **Honor Code**

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of George Mason University, and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the members of George Mason University, have set forth the following code of honor.

#### **I. The Honor Committee**

The Honor Committee is a group of students elected from the student body whose primary and indispensable duty is to instill the concept and spirit of the Honor Code within the student body. The secondary function of this group is to sit as a hearing committee on all alleged violations of the code.

#### **II. Extent of the Honor Code**

The Honor Code of George Mason University deals specifically with cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing.

##### **A. Cheating encompasses the following:**

1. The willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students
2. The above may be accomplished by any means whatsoever, including but not limited to the following: fraud; duress; deception; theft; trick; talking; signs; gestures; copying from another student; and the unauthorized use of study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information
3. Attempted cheating

##### **B. Plagiarism encompasses the following:**

1. Presenting as one's own the words, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgment
2. Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment

##### **C. Lying encompasses the following:**

The willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work. This includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Lying to administration and faculty members
2. Falsifying any university document by mutilation, addition, or deletion
3. Lying to Honor Committee members and counsels during investigation and hearing. This may constitute a second charge, with the committee members who acted as judges during that specific hearing acting as accusers

##### **D. Stealing encompasses the following:**

Taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the university campus. This includes misuse of university computer resources (see the Responsible Use of Computing Policy section in the "General Policies" chapter). This section is relevant only to academic work and related materials.

**Students must report all alleged violations to the Honor Committee. Any student who has knowledge of, but does not report, a violation may be accused of lying under the Honor Code.**

**I have read the above GMU Honor Code and agree to abide by its provisions:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_