Interaction Design

INF 385T Fall 2024

General Information

Course Description: This team-oriented project course will explore several issues surrounding the design and production of usable and elegant interactive experiences. Students will be introduced to topics including the iterative design process, physical and digital prototyping, and user testing. Project work will allow students to demonstrate mastery of the methods discussed in class through the creation and evaluation of screen-based and physical interfaces. No formal programming experience is necessary or expected as students are encouraged to leverage existing skills to develop visualizations and prototypes. For projects in the digital domain, experience with Figma, HTML5, Axure, InVision or the like is helpful, but not required.

Meeting Time: Wednesday 6:30-9:30pm
Meeting Place: UTA 1.208

Professor

A. Fleming Seay, Ph.D.

- **Email:** Fleming_Seay@Dell.com
- **Office Hours:** (by appointment)

Textbook

Required?	Title	Author	Publisher
Yes	***Designing Interactions***	Bill Moggridge	*MIT Press*

Grading

	Due	Weight
Class Participation	~	20%
Checkpoints	10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/20	10%
Final Project	12/4	40%

Grading Criteria: Performance in the course will be evaluated against the criteria listed below.

- Individual contribution to project checkpoints
- Active participation in class discussions, work-sessions, and critiques
- Rigor of design explorations
- Quality of craftsmanship and level of completion
- Team's ability to articulate process of arrival at a design solution

Plus and minus grades will be used in the awarding of assignment and final grades according to the grade breaks in the table below.

Grade	Cutoff
A A-	94% 90%
B+ B B-	87% 84% 80%
C+ C C-	77% 74% 70%
D+ D D-	67% 64% 60%
F	<60%

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Though absence will not affect your grade directly, it will reduce your ability to participate in and contribute to group work. Multiple absences will hurt your participation grade and your peer evaluation. If you are going to miss a class, let me and your teammates know as well in advance as possible.

Canvas: The Canvas system will be used for a great deal of class business including posting and submission of assignments, class announcements, and sharing of lecture slides. Please check it often.

Laptop Policy: Students are expected to keep all laptops and tablets closed and put away during the lecture and presentation portions of the class. If anyone is standing at the front of the room addressing the group, then notebooks and mobile devices must be closed and/or stored.

Late Assignments: Assignments are due before 6:30 pm on the day of the designated class period. Late assignments will be assessed a 10% per day late penalty (penalties will accrue on Saturdays and Sundays). Early turn-in of assignments to accommodate planned absences should be arranged with the professor.

Course Schedule (Tentative)

Content	Date
Course Intro	**8/28**
Mood Boards	**9/4**
Favorite Design/Designer + Modern Interaction Research I	**9/11**
Douglas Engelbart, Modern Interaction & Concepts Session	**9/18**
Hiroshi Ishii , Contextual Design & Teams Established	**9/25**
Jun Rekimoto + Prototyping + Project Pitch Document	**10/2**
Project Progress Checkpoint I – Project Pitch Presentations	**10/9**
Lecture Catch Up & User Testing	**10/16**
Project Progress Checkpoint II	**10/23**
In Class Work Session	**10/30**
Project Progress Checkpoint III	**11/6**
In Class Work Session	**11/13**
Project Progress Checkpoint IV, End Game	**11/20**
Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class Meeting	**11/27**
Final Presentations	**12/4**

Other Policies & Important Information

Use of Generative AI: The use of Generative AI solutions like DALL·E and Midjourney to assist in the creation of visual design artifacts like logos, storyboards, etc. is acceptable, even encouraged, in this course when explicit citations are provided. The use of Generative AI writing tools and chatbots like ChatGPT to assist in the creation of text artifacts (e.g. bulleted lists, documents & presentations) is restricted as follows:

1) Using ChatGPT early in the process as a consultant to get you started in orienting to and exploring a problem is acceptable.
2) Including in an assignment the edited output of a Chatbot with explicit citation is acceptable but should be done sparingly.
3) Including in an assignment the edited or unedited output of a Chatbot without citation (presenting it as your own work) is an act of academic dishonesty and a violation of UT Austin's Institutional Rules on academic integrity. Such use is not acceptable, will results in zero points for the assignment, and will be reported to the iSchool administration for disposition. For more information see the Academic Integrity Expectations section below.

Disability & Access (D&A): The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Disability & Access (D&A). Please refer to the D&A website for more information: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/. If you are already registered with D&A, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

Confidentiality of Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings

Academic Integrity Expectations: Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct.