

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## INFO 498B Input and Interaction Spring 2009

Professor Wobbrock

<http://faculty.washington.edu/wobbrock/>  
wobbrock@u.washington.edu

Office Hours: By appointment  
Office: Mary Gates Hall 330C

Class Room: Mary Gates Hall 234  
Class Meetings: WF 11:00-12:50

Class Web Site: <http://faculty.washington.edu/wobbrock/info498b/>

Class Listserv: info498b\_sp09@u.washington.edu

*Teaching Assistant*

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Office Hours: By appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The ability for humans to enter information is a cornerstone of human-computer interaction (HCI). This course examines a number of ways people can communicate with computer and information systems through input and interaction techniques, including the invention of recent techniques for emerging computing paradigms. Topics include mouse pointing, pointing facilitation, text entry, mobile interaction, large displays, eye and voice input, accessibility, and theoretical models of movement and perception (e.g. Fitts' law, Steering law, Hick-Hyman law). Evaluation of techniques is also covered. The course culminates in a project in which students design and build an input or interaction technique. Some programming experience is strongly recommended.

**All course readings will be available in PDF format from the course web site.**

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate the historical development of humans' input and interaction with computing systems.
2. Apply basic understandings of human psychological performance models to input and interaction technique comprehension, evaluation, and design.

3. Discuss and describe the various input and interaction devices and techniques that pervade our society and facilitate our communication with technology.
4. Understand and critically think about the results of an experiment in which an input or interaction technique was evaluated with human subjects.
5. Showcase an input or interaction technique of your own creation.

### **CLASS WORK**

This course is based on many readings, a few assignments, and a final project. It is a survey course intended to expose you to a vibrant area of academic and industrial work. The course workload consists of readings, reading quizzes, three short assignments, and a final project. There are no examinations.

### **ACTIVITIES, ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING**

Students will engage in three graded activities during the quarter. All activities will be scored on the customary 4.0 scale:

◆ **Reading Quizzes.** Each class will have a short reading quiz. **Reading quizzes will be administered at 11:00 am, and be collected at 11:10 am sharp.** Anyone coming late to class must still turn in their quiz by 11:10 am or receive no credit. Quizzes will be designed to take 5 minutes by those who have done the reading and retained the major points of what they have read.

*30% Reading Quizzes*

◆ **Assignments.** Throughout the quarter, **three (3)** short assignments will be given to be done in pairs. Assignments must be turned in at the start of class on the day they are due. **No late assignments will be accepted.** If you anticipate a problem in completing your assignment on-time due to a medical, health, family, or religious circumstance, email me at least **48 hours before the deadline** to request a short extension. Requests received closer than 48 hours to the due date at 11:00 am will not be granted except in extreme cases (e.g., true emergencies).

*30% Assignments*

◆ **Final Group Project.** The cornerstone of the course is a group project that will be worked on throughout the quarter. Project groups must be **4 students**. Groups will present their projects at the end of the quarter to the class during or before the final examination period. Besides the presentation, a working prototype will be created and informally tested with people from outside the class.

*30% Group Project*

◆ **Class Participation.** Our class sessions will be interactive. I expect you to come to class prepared to participate in discussions, ask questions, share confusions, help each other, speak up, and the like. Your in-class activities and informal group presentations will contribute directly to your class participation grade. **No laptops, cell phones, or music players will be permitted to be used in class. This is a strict rule.**

*10% Class Participation*

## GRADING CRITERIA

General grading information for the University of Washington is available at:  
[http://www.washington.edu/students/genocat/front/Grading\\_Sys.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/genocat/front/Grading_Sys.html)

The UW undergraduate grading guidelines, used by the iSchool and available at  
<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/practices/guidelines.html>, may be used in this class.

## RE-GRADES

Re-grades are not used simply because you don't like your score on a given piece of work. Re-grades are meant to address rare cases in which you feel a mistake was made because of factual error, missing documentation, or clear inconsistency. To request a re-grade, you must submit, in hardcopy, a 1-page formal letter naming the assignment, the current grade, the point of dispute, your argument for a better grade, the grade you believe should have been awarded, and the original assignment. Such requests must be submitted within 1-week of receiving the graded assignment. **Be aware that the entire assignment will be re-graded, not just the disputed portion, and that your grade may go down, remain the same, or go up.** Only one re-grade per assignment is allowed. In addition, the instructor reserves the right to deny a re-grade to any student he feels is abusing the privilege.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services: 448 Schmitz, 206-543-8924 (V/TTY). If you have a letter from DSS indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so we can discuss the accommodations you might need in the class.

Academic accommodations due to disability will not be made unless the student has a letter from DSS specifying the type and nature of accommodations needed.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The essence of academic life revolves around respect not only for the ideas of others, but also their rights to those ideas and their promulgation. It is therefore essential that all of us engaged in the life of the mind take the utmost care that the ideas and expressions of ideas of other people always be appropriately handled, and, where necessary, cited. For writing assignments, when ideas or materials of others are used, they must be cited. The format is not that important – as long as the source material can be located and the citation verified. What is important is that the material be cited. In any situation, if you have a question, please feel free to ask. Such attention to ideas and acknowledgment of their sources is central to academic life and life in community.

Please acquaint yourself with the University of Washington's resources on academic honesty (<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm>).

Students are encouraged to take drafts of their writing assignments to the Writing Center for assistance with using citations ethically and effectively. Information on scheduling an appointment can be found at: <http://depts.washington.edu/iwrite/>

### **COPYRIGHT**

All of the expressions of ideas in this class that are fixed in any tangible medium such as digital and physical documents are protected by copyright law as embodied in title 17 of the United States Code. These expressions include the work product of both: (1) your student colleagues (e.g., any assignments published here in the course environment or statements committed to text in a discussion forum); and, (2) your instructors (e.g., the syllabus, assignments, reading lists, and lectures). Within the constraints of “fair use,” you may copy these copyrighted expressions for your personal intellectual use in support of your education here in the iSchool. Such fair use by you does not include further distribution by any means of copying, performance or presentation beyond the circle of your close acquaintances, student colleagues in this class and your family. If you have any questions regarding whether a use to which you wish to put one of these expressions violates the creator's copyright interests, please feel free to ask the instructor for guidance.

### **PRIVACY**

To support an academic environment of rigorous discussion and open expression of personal thoughts and feelings, we, as members of the academic community, must be committed to the inviolate right of privacy of our student and instructor colleagues. As a result, we must forego sharing personally identifiable information about any member of our community including information about the ideas they express, their families, life styles and their political, social, and religious affiliations. If you have any questions regarding whether a disclosure you wish to make regarding anyone in this course or in the iSchool community violates that person's privacy interests, please feel free to ask the instructor for guidance.

Knowing violations of these principles of academic conduct, privacy or copyright may result in University disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct.

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Good student conduct is important for maintaining a healthy course environment. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Washington's Student Code of Conduct at: <http://www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html>

### **EVALUATION OF STUDENT WORK**

You may expect to receive comments on and evaluations of assignments and submitted work in a timely fashion. All work from the course will be returned, most with comments, within two weeks of the last class of the quarter.