COURSE SYLLABUS
INFO 490 Informatics Capstone
Winter 2008

Instructors: Batya Friedman and David Hendry

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TAs are available for extra meetings by appointment.

Meeting schedule (see Course Structure below for details)

Wednesdays 9:00 AM -12:20PM, 420 Mary Gates Hall
Fridays 8:30 AM -12:20PM, 420 Mary Gates Hall

Class Website

http://www.ischool.washington.edu/informatics/capstones

Course Description

The capstone course enables students to carry out a significant quarter-long design or research project. For this year's capstone, a theme on environmental sustainability will be supported. Prerequisite: INFO 440; INFO 470.

Required and Recommended Texts

None.
Course Structure

Weekly class meetings (typically on Wednesdays): Typically, these weekly meetings will consist of three components as follows.
   i. A group discussion of critical issues. To prompt discussion, teams will submit weekly project status reports. These will be read and used to guide discussion about solutions to common challenges.
   ii. A special topic, often with a guest speaker, or a short activity. Discussion will connect the topic to your projects as appropriate.
   iii. A short reflection on various central concepts related to the theme of environmental sustainability, with simplicity as a secondary theme.

Weekly project meetings (typically on Fridays): One-on-one meetings between the capstone team and a teaching assistant as well as peer project group meetings. Meeting times to be announced.

All class presentations: Occasionally, there will be project presentations in front of the whole class. These may be held on either Wednesdays or Fridays. Attendance at the presentations is expected for all students. Dates will be announced during the quarter.

Activities and Assessments

- Participation in class discussion and project meetings
- In class activities and brief reflective statements
- Weekly project status reports
- Project abstract (optional submission to the Undergraduate Research Symposium)
- Project presentations
- Final project poster and report

Grading Percentages and Criteria

20%  Class Participation
20%  Intermediate Deliverables
60%  Final Poster, Report and Presentation

General grading information for the University of Washington is available at:
http://www.washington.edu/students/gencat/front/Grading_Sys.html

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

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.
TA Concerns
If you have any concerns about a course or the TA, please see the TA about these issues as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable talking with the TA or not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the instructor of the course.

If you are still not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact Matthew Saxton, the Associate Dean for Academics in 370 Mary Gates Hall, by phone at (206) 685-9626 or by e-mail at msaxton@u.washington.edu.

You may also contact the Graduate School at G-1 Communications Building, by phone at (206) 543-5900.

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, it’s OK. 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 not only to academic life, but life in general.

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 a UW writing center for assistance with using citations ethically and effectively. Information on the English Department Writing Center can be found at http://depts.washington.edu/wcenter/ or visit the Odegaard Writing & Research Center at http://depts.washington.edu/owrc/.

Copyright
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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 and social 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