

COURSE SYLLABUS¹
CS 373.01
Human-Computer Interaction
Dr. Ken Hartness
3 credit hours
Spring 2008

Location of Lecture: AB1 209

Meeting Times: 12:30 - 1:50 p.m. TTh

Office: AB1 212F

Phone: (936) 294-3524

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. Th, 2:00 p.m. TTh

E-mail: csc_kth@shsu.edu

9:30 a.m. MW, 1:00 p.m. MW, 3:30 p.m. MW

URL: http://www.shsu.edu/~csc_kth

Catalog Description: This course presents a comprehensive introduction to the principles and techniques of human-computer interaction. The course examines the event-driven model through the development of applications utilizing graphical design environments and the use of rapid application prototyping to explore a variety of techniques for HCI, particularly in relation to mobile and other non-traditional devices.

Prerequisites: CS 160 or CS 147

Course Objectives: The student will learn design issues that need to be addressed by software that interacts with humans. The student will be introduced to event-driven programming and learn to use at least one interface design tool. The student will become aware of current research that may change the future of human-computer interaction.

Required Text Book: *Interaction Design: Beyond Human-Computer Interaction*, by Sharp, Rogers, and Preece, ISBN: 978-0-470-01866-8.

Optional Texts, References, or Supplies: Students may wish to locate a reference on Visual Basic and user interface development in the language of their choice. A number of resources, like Qt's cross platform library and design tool for C++ and Java or certain language compilers, may be located and downloaded from the Internet. You should be able to get education discounts on products like Microsoft Visual Studio with C++, C#, or Visual Basic, if you wish copies of these on your own computer.

Attendance policy: Attendance is important for successful completion of the course. If class time is used for working on an assignment or presenting it, attendance is mandatory. If class time is used for group work, groups may be reassigned to adjust for absent individuals. The instructor does not, as a rule, accept late work without prior arrangement or written evidence of the emergency that delayed submission and, in some cases, will even require alternative work for excused absences. Absences should be cleared with the professor sufficiently in advance for the student to complete work **before** the date of the absence. A student who experiences an

¹If the details of this syllabus are modified during the semester, an announcement will be made in class. If a student's grade is affected, he or she may choose to be evaluated according to the original grading policy.

unexpected and excused absence should contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible and provide written evidence (e.g., clinic or doctor's note) to justify alternative arrangements.

Assignments: Traditional homework will be augmented with individual or group interface evaluations and designs and a brief report on current user interface research. Programming assignments related to user interfaces and event-driven programming will be assigned. Once students have learned something of the expectations for a good interface design, they must create a thorough interface design and present it to the class. Depending on the nature of their design, a software prototype (not a full working version) should be submitted as well.

Exams: Three exams and a comprehensive final exam will be used to evaluate your understanding of the material. The third exam is an optional make-up exam, replacing the lowest of the first two exam grades. Exams may include multiple-choice, matching, or short answer questions as well as essay questions and evaluation of case studies.

Grading Policy: The student's average is a weighted average calculated by averaging grades of a certain type, then combining the uniform averages according to the following weights²:

Homework	10%	
Designs and programs	20%	
Project	10%	
presentation		5%
document		5%
Exams (20% each)	60%	

Academic Dishonesty: All work must be your own unless clearly identified. Anything you include in submitted work that is copied from somewhere else and any ideas incorporated into your documents or reports which were first thought by someone else or inspired your own thinking must include credit to the original source. Any type of cheating, especially clear cases of academic dishonesty, may result in all students involved receiving a grade of F for the semester; at the least, part or all of an assignment may be rejected as a warning. (See the University Code of Conduct, www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html, and my own web page, www.shsu.edu/~csc_kth/cheating.pdf, for more information.)

Classroom Rules of Conduct: In compliance with the University Code of Conduct, students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, using inappropriate language, reading newspapers or socializing at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Students will be warned, then directed to leave the class and/or report to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

²The professor reserves the right to curve class grades in a consistent manner using any reasonable type of curve.

Visitors in the Classroom: Occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons is allowed with prior arrangement with the instructor, as long as it does not interfere with the registered members of the class or the educational process.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. The Counseling Center verifies the need for assistance and provides a request for accommodations to be shared with the professor. Students requesting assistance with academically-related problems stemming from individual disabilities should contact the Director of the Counseling Center (Lee Drain Annex, 936-294-1720) in a timely manner so that a suitable learning environment is attained early in the semester.

Religious Holidays: University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day may take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Whenever possible, the student should make arrangements with the instructor at least one week in advance (see attendance policy).