University Course Description:

Weekly colloquium and discussion forum. Discusses design computing research and report on ongoing project progress, with demonstrations and guest speakers. Explores design computing, design thinking and design process, and inventing new computer aided tools for design.

Updated Class Description:

This course explores some of the topics that motivate active thought and research in design computing. It does this primarily through guest presentations and discussion of research and investigations taking place around us. Speakers are drawn from the department, the larger university, the community and the profession. Presentations are intended to spark discussion and invite students to make links to their own experience and interests. The issues will range widely over the realms of communication, collaboration, data management, design cognition, design process, simulation, interface design, smart environments, etc.

Preparation

Experience with design activities and digital media, including 2D CAD, 3D modeling, or other design computing software is desirable, but the primary preparatory requirement is an open and inquiring mind willing to engage new viewpoints, discuss with others, and expand personal horizons.

Expectations

The class meets twice each week to listen, discuss, or report. At most meetings a speaker will present their work and/or views with regard to design computing research.

• You are expected to attend each presentation and to take part in any face-to-face discussion;

• You are expected to contribute (online, within two days) a list of 4-6 "key words" that you feel characterize the content of the talk (these will be processed into a collective Word Cloud to capture our overall impression); and

• You are expected to make at least 5 postings on the course discussion board during the quarter.

Postings may raise questions, respond to questions, or share opinions and experience.

Beyond participation in live discussion, keyword identification, and discussion board postings, you are expected to identify a topic of your own to explore independently through outside reading and investigation (though I’m happy to meet with individuals outside of class if you wish). These investigations will culminate in a brief (5 - 10 minute) oral presentation to the class and a short (3-5 page) written report, both due at the end of the quarter during the last week of class.

Schedule (attached)

Most Tuesdays and Thursdays we will have a presentation and discussion. In addition, a few days will be given-over to discussion of broad topics related to the class. As the schedule is necessarily somewhat flexible, the "current schedule" will always be available online.

Class Assignments and Grading (C/NC)

This is a Credit/NoCredit course. Grading will be based on attendance at presentations, keyword contributions, participation in face-to-face and online discussion, and the personal investigation presented at the end of the quarter. It is possible to receive NC.