

COM 480**Fall 2009 -Syllabus****COMPUTER MEDIATED DESIGN**

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Office Hours: Tuesday: 10:30–11:30
Thursday 08:00–09:00

COM 480– COMMUNICATION SEMINAR

This seminar focuses on the ways in which human computer interaction design extends and fosters communication by developing computerized tools that support the way people communicate and interact. This seminar emphasizes the role of theory in informing design and illustrates how the fields of communication studies, cognitive science, and information science inform the design of computer mediated communication. The subject is presented within the human computer interaction historical framework, and from a user experience perspective.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The class is taught from August 24 to December 12 in Webster 112, on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and online on the Lualima website. We will use the Lualima website for several class activities and for all assignments submissions. The URL to the Lualima website is: <https://lualima.hawaii.edu/portal>. You will need your UH Manoa username and password to login. Please see <http://www.hawaii.edu/its/about/helpdesk.html> should you need help on this matter.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Two textbooks will be used in this Fall 2009 COM 480 seminar:

- **DESIGNING INTERACTIONS**
by Bill Moggridge
Publisher: MIT Press; 1st edition 2007
ISBN-10: 0262134748

Note: This book comes with its own website: <http://www.designinginteractions.com>

- **Sketching User Experiences**
by Bill Buxton
Publisher: Morgan Kaufmann (2007)
ISBN-10: 0123740371

EXAMINATIONS & GRADE ALLOCATION

Midterms & Final Exam

- There will be 2 midterms and 1 final exams in this class.
- Exams questions are likely to reach deep into the course material. As such, you cannot hope to do well on the examinations unless you keep up with all readings and assignments from the very beginning of the class.
- For your convenience, the COM 480 class' examination schedule is provided in Table 1 below.

Examination	Date	Location
1 st Midterm	October 1st	Webster 112 9:00-10:00
2nd Midterm	November 5th	Webster 112 9:00-10:00
Final Exam	December 15th	Webster 112 9:00-11:30

Table 1 - COM 480 Examinations Schedule

Grading

- The instructor believes that assigning grades should be done as objectively as possible and that grades should measure a student's performance in a class, nothing more, and nothing less. To help make letter grades as objective as possible, the instructor does not grade on a curve. A curve implements a relative grading system. When a curve is used, there is no fixed score that earns an "A", "B", etc. Instead, the letter grade becomes an expression of how well any one student performs relative to the rest of the class. In assigning grades for the class the instructor uses fixed scores exclusively.
- Your final letter grade is based on a cumulative score computed from a weighted average of your homework, and your exams.
- Please understand that your instructor does not determine your final grade. *You, and only you determine your final grade.*

Grades Allocation

Your score on the following items will determine your final grade based on a maximum possible score of 100 Points:

Graded Items	Points Allocation	Grade Distribution
Homework	25 Points	25% of Total Grade
2 Midterms	40 Points	40% of Total Grade
1 Final Exam	25 Points	25% of Total Grade
Participation	10 Points	10% of Total Grade

Table 2 – COM 480 Grade Allocation

Grading Scale

- As recommended by the University of Hawaii at Manoa the +/- grading scale will be used. Specifically, all grades will be allocated as follow:

Grade	Score	Grade Point
A+	98-100	4
A	94-97	4
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	63-66	1
D-	60-62	0.7
F	0-59	0

Table 3 - UH Manoa Grading Scale

Note that the final letter grade is a measure of how well a student meets the objectives of a particular class taught during a particular academic term and reflects the following academic achievements standards:

A	Excellent
B	Superior
C	Average
D	Inferior
F	Failure

MISCELLANEOUS

- Class participation**

I believe that most of you greatly benefit from discussions and explanations of the material in the textbooks. Concepts that are problematic to you are most likely problematic to others as well. So asking questions and contributing to discussions will benefit you and others in the class. For this reason I expect you to actively participate in class discussions.

- Incomplete**

Students requesting an incomplete must meet two criteria:

- They must at the time of the request be passing the course with a grade of B or better.
- They must provide the instructor with compelling proof of either a legal, medical, or family obligation of an emergency nature as objective and legitimate grounds for the request.

- **Withdraw**

It is your responsibility to know all deadlines and modalities for withdrawal from the class with or without a “W” on your transcripts. An academic officer must approve requests for course withdrawal made after the drop deadlines. Please check with your advisor for more information.

- **Academic Honesty**

The instructor strictly enforces the policies of the University of Hawaii regarding academic dishonesty. The instructor has a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism and cheating as defined on pages 564-565 of the 2009-2010 University Catalog. Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or exam will result in a grade of F for the class and immediate referral to the Vice Chancellor of Students. Don't do it.

- **Disclaimer**

The instructor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus at anytime.
