

COMP 4517: Ethical Human-Computer Interaction

Course Description

Ethical Human Computer Interaction

This course offers an introduction to Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), focusing on the design, evaluation, and implementation of user interfaces. Students will learn core principles of usability and user-centered design, and a range of methods for understanding user needs. Emphasis will be placed on ethical considerations in computing, such as data privacy, accessibility, algorithmic bias, and the societal impact of technology.

Pre Requisite: COMP 2150

This course is required for COMP majors, and replaces the previous COMP 1950 course requirement.

Course Time & Location

Engineering Building room 308

M/W 12:40 - 2:05pm

Final Exam: December 10, 10am - noon

Course Staff

Dr. Amy Cook

ascook@memphis.edu

Dunn Hall 113

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-4pm and Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm

also virtually, by appointment. Just send an email to schedule

TA: TBD

Key Resources

- University Email – check it daily! This is the primary way we will communicate with you outside of class.
- Canvas - for course announcements, assignment submissions, grades and feedback. We will post slides, assignment details, and announcements here.
- Required Texts – there are no required texts for this course

Grading

All assignments will be graded using a rubric. The rubric will be shared when the assignment is posted. Read the rubric carefully before you submit your assignments.

Grade Computation:

HCI Skills Assignments = 50%

- *The survey skill assignment is optional, and worth bonus points towards your HCI skills grade*

Ethics Experiences = 40%

Final Exam = 10%

- *'Delights' posts are optional, and worth bonus points on the final exam*

Grading Scale:

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|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| • A+ ≥97% | B+ 89-87 | C+ 79-77 | D+ 69-67 |
| • A 96-93 | B 86-83 | C 76-73 | D 66-63 |
| • A- 92-90 | B- 82-80 | C- 72-70 | F ≤62% |

Class Attendance Policy

Attending and participating in class is not an explicit part of your grade calculation, but it will help you succeed in this course. Plan to attend. If you are missing class, inform your teammates ahead of time.

Late / Makeup Assignment Policy

Assignments are due every Friday at 11:59pm. Plan accordingly.

All assignments are expected to be completed and turned in on schedule. Due dates will be clearly indicated for each assignment. **Late assignments are NOT accepted** except in extreme circumstances. Likewise, makeup exams will be given only under extreme circumstances. If you feel that your circumstances warrant a late work submission or a makeup exam, get in touch with us and with your team as soon as possible. Be prepared to show some kind of documented proof of your situation.

Note: **every student gets one 'free' 24 hour extension** to use on any individual assignment during the semester, no questions asked. You may not use an extension on a team assignment.

FAQs

Can I work by myself instead of on a team?

No.

How will teams be formed?

Teams will be formed in class to ensure each team has members with a variety of skills necessary to be successful on assignments. Teams will stay together throughout the first half of the semester.

Class is during lunch time. Can I eat in class?

Please do! It's hard to learn if you are hungry. But try to ensure your meal does not disturb others.

What counts as cheating?

Many assignments in this class are team-based. We expect that teammates will work closely together and submit assignments. We also expect that as good classroom citizens, you will sometimes help out people on other teams. You may also use outside sources of information or personal contacts to help complete assignments. However, **you must credit all sources and collaborators**. Failure to do so will be considered cheating. You do not need to credit the course website or course texts. Every other

source of help, including ChatGPT or other people in the class or on your team, should be acknowledged.

If we determine that you have copied something directly from a book, the Internet, or some other source without acknowledging it, you will receive a failing grade on the assignment and (at our discretion) a failing grade in the course. If we determine that you have copied another student's assignment, this will happen to both you and the person from whom you copied. The incident may also be forwarded to the University Office of Student Accountability for further disciplinary action. Please don't put us in this situation.

What should I do if I have a disability?

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodations, or if you have any questions related to any accommodation for testing, note taking, reading, etc., please speak with us as soon as possible. You must contact the Disability Resources for Students office [\(901\)678-2880](tel:9016782880) to officially request such accommodations / services.

What should I do if I'm experiencing academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings of depression or anxiety?

Your well-being is important! Please take care of yourself. That might mean eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep, limiting screen time, and taking time to relax.

Everyone needs someone to talk to. You are not alone. Asking for support sooner rather than later is often helpful.

The UofM provides confidential counseling services both on-campus and through telehealth. These services are free to students enrolled in six or more credits and late-stage doctoral students taking dissertation credits. The Counseling Center is staffed by experienced, licensed professionals, including psychologists, clinical social workers and counselors, all of whom understand the unique needs of college students.

To access the Counseling Center's services, students have multiple options. They can visit the main campus locations at 211 and 214 Wilder Tower, call (901)678-2068, or join the virtual waiting room at uofmcounseling.doxy.me/counselingwaitingroom.

[Links to an external site.](#) Walk-in hours are offered from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Furthermore, the Counseling Center has recently enhanced and expanded its after-hours crisis service, known as the [Tiger Care Line Links to an external site.](#)

Students facing a mental health crisis outside of regular business hours, including weekends, holidays or campus closures, now have the option to dial the Counseling Center's main number at (901)678-2068 and choose option 2. This will connect them to a skilled counselor who is ready to assist.

Coping abilities, connections and a sense of belonging are essential elements of a successful student experience, and the Counseling Center has developed an extensive outreach program to support students in these areas. The programs are located at memphis.edu/counseling/outreach/index.php [Links to an external site.](#) If you find any workshops you believe your faculty, staff and students may benefit from, you can request the counseling center to bring the workshop to your program at the link listed above.

Finally, the Counseling Center offers students access to the Relaxation Zone, a dedicated area to unwind, relax, and manage stress. The Relaxation Zone is located at 302 Brister Hall. To learn more about the Relaxation Zone and the benefits it offers, please visit the following link: memphis.edu/counseling/relaxation-zone/index.php [Links to an external site.](#)

. To know more about Student Health and Counseling services, you can visit their website at memphis.edu/shcs/ [Links to an external site.](#)

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Schedule for Fall 2025

Week	Date	Type	Topic
1	Aug 25	Lecture	Intro - what is HCI, history of HCI, which parts of HCI this course will cover
	Aug 27	Lecture	What is usability;
	Aug 29	Deadline	A0A CITI Training Due + survey
2	Sep 1	Holiday	Labor Day
	Sep 3	Ethics Lecture	Ethical frameworks + case study; make teams
	Sep 5	Deadline	Ethics framework assessment due + A0B team contract
3	Sep 8	Lecture	Interviews + preview empathy map
	Sep 10	Lecture	Interview Question Writing, Skills Practice
	Sep 12	Deadline	A1 Interview Due
4	Sep 15	Lecture	Empathy Mapping + Personas
	Sep 17	Work	Feedback
	Sep 19	Deadline	A2 Needfinding Due
5	Sep 22	Ethics Lecture	Ethical Case Study (GenAI) - Amy Ruggaber Guest Lecture
	Sep 24	Ethics Lecture	Ethics Experience (GenAI)
	Sep 26	Deadline	GenAI Experience Due
6	Sep 29	Lecture	Storyboards & Speed Dating
	Oct 1	Work	Storyboard Feedback + Work Session
	Oct 3	Deadline	A3 Storyboards Due
7	Oct 6	Ethics Lecture	Ethical Case Study (Accessibility)
	Oct 8	Ethics Lecture	Ethics Experience (Accessibility)
	Oct 10	Deadline	Accessibility Experience Due
8	Oct 13	Holiday	Fall Break
	Oct 15	Ethics Lecture	Visual Design
	Oct 17	Deadline	(no deadline)
9	Oct 20	Lecture	Heuristic Evaluation
	Oct 22	Work	HE Work session
	Oct 24	Deadline	A4 Heuristic Eval Due
10	Oct 27	Ethics Lecture	Ethical Case Study (Dark Patterns)
	Oct 29	Ethics Lecture	Ethical Case Study (Dark Patterns)

	Oct 31	Deadline	Dark pattern experience Due
11	Nov 3	Lecture	Think Aloud: How To
	Nov 5	Work	Think Aloud work session
	Nov 7	Deadline	A5 Think Aloud Due
12	Nov 10	Ethics Lecture	Ethical Case Study (Privacy)
	Nov 12	Ethics Lecture	Ethical Case Study (Privacy)
	Nov 14	Deadline	Privacy experience Due
13	Nov 17	Ethics Lecture	Ethical Case Study (Gadgets, Wearables, IoT)
	Nov 19	Ethics Lecture	Ethical Case Study (Trustworthy AI)
	Nov 21	Deadline	(no deadline)
14	Nov 24	Lecture	Remote Class: Surveys
	Nov 26	Holiday	Thanksgiving
	Nov 28	Holiday	Eat lots of turkey
15	Dec 1	Ethics Lecture	Ethical Case Study (student's choice)
	Dec 3	Review + Deadline	Exam Review + Optional Deadline: Surveys
Final Exam	Dec 10	Exam	Final Exam, 10am - noon