

PSY 414
Introduction to Human Computer Interaction
Fall, 2015
Shulan Lu, Ph.D.

PSY 414 COURSE SYLLABUS (DRAFT)

Office: Henderson 218
Office hours: TBA
Office phone: (903)468-8628
E-mail: shulan.lu@tamuc.edu

What will you learn?

In this course, we will examine a variety of technology-based media and their setups, the psychological principles behind how people interact with these media, the present and future applications, and the impact of human-computer interactions. You will be encouraged to appreciate and apply the knowledge that is discussed. Furthermore, you will be expected to consider the ethical implications of these technological advancements.

Readings

1. Basic Textbook: Blascovich, J., & Bailenson, J. (2011). *Infinite reality: the hidden blueprint of our virtual life*. HarperCollins: New York
2. Supplementary reading materials: TBA

Grade Evaluation

Reading Quizzes: Reading the textbook is essential to your successful completion of these assignments. You will be quizzed over your reading of each topic (approx. two chapters of the textbook). You will earn credit for every quiz on which you score a 60% or better (i.e., they are treated as pass / fail). There will be 6 quizzes, which add up to be worth 18% of your overall grade (3% each).

Quiz Total: $3 \times 6 = 18$

Assignments: Again reading the textbook and the supplementary materials provided by the instructor is essential to your successful completion of these assignments. Answers should be posted no later than 9am Wednesday morning of the second week. Your postings should be substantive and civil. Please observe the following criteria when posting answers:

- 1) Does the posting demonstrate the understanding of the materials being discussed? Please make an explicit mention of the theory and viewpoints you use for your arguments by using at least one direct quotation from the textbook chapter.
- 2) Does the argument in the posting hold together and move forward?
- 3) Are there grammatical and spelling errors?

The closing chapter due date will be announced later.

Answering Questions Total: $10 \times 7 + 2$ (Self introduction) + 2 (Final reflection) = 74

Discussion Responsibilities: For answers to discussion questions, every student is required to make responses to the work by at least two students. The discussion responses must address whether and how the posting centered around the theories and viewpoints presented in the textbook. Discussion should end by 9am Friday of the second week.

Lateness for discussions is not acceptable.

Discussion Total: 8

To be on the safe side, assume that I grade on a numerical scale: A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = below 60. However, I reserve the right to reward exemplary attendance and participation.

Coursework Policy:

All quizzes and exams are to be *taken closed-book*. You are not allowed to take any quiz, exam, or submit any assignment after its respective deadline unless you notify me of extenuating circumstance and I give permission in advance.

In case of unforeseen emergency, contact me or Dept ASAP. When official documentation is provided, you can do a make-up.

No incompletes. If you cannot complete the course with a grade that find satisfactory, it is *your responsibility to drop it*.

Student Conduct in General:

Keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts a little as the course gets underway. I say that by way of noting the importance of class attendance, as you will be held responsible for any change in plans announced in class.

The other basic admonition every syllabus must include is that *dishonesty (broadly defined)* is not allowed. If you have any questions about what constitutes dishonesty, please see me.

Or, as the university likes me to say: **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”** (See Student’s Guide Handbook).

Academic Honesty:

Unless authorized by me, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including quizzes, assignments and exams, without assistance from any source.

You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course.

Students who violate academic integrity may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

Contact me if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work.

Disability:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Inclusivity Statement:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Disclaimer:

While I make every effort to abide by the information presented here, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Aug 31	Introduction to the course Defining reality	Introduction (1-8) Ch 1: Dream machines
2	Sept 7		Assignment 1
3	Sept 14	Types of virtual media Hardware setup of virtual media	Ch2: A museum of virtual media Ch3: Mirror, mirror on the wall (Quiz 1)
4	Sept 21		Assignment 2
5	Sept 28	Social interactions in virtual media Do people treat virtual environments real?	Ch4: Winning virtual friends and influencing virtual people Ch5: The virtual lab (Quiz 2)
6	Oct 5		Assignment 3
7	Oct 12	Identity	Ch6: Who am I? Ch7: Re-creating yourself (Quiz 3)
8	Oct 19		Assignment 4
9	Oct 26	Understanding others via their digital footprints	Ch10: Digital footprints (Quiz 4)

10	Nov 02		Assignment 5
11	Nov 09	Addicted in virtual presence	Ch11: The virtual “Jones” (Quiz 5)
12	Nov 16		Assignment 6
13	Nov 23	Applications of virtual reality in commercial product, medicine, psychotherapy, physical therapy, and business. THANKSGIVING NOV 26	Ch13: Virtual yin and yang (Quiz 6)
14	Nov 30		
15	Dec 7	Moral consequences	TBA Assignment 7 Final Reflection