PSYCO 494
Human Factors and Ergonomics
Fall, 2018
LEC A1 TR 2:00-3:20 p.m. TB 113

Instructor: Dr. Karsten A. Loepelmann
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Office: BS P231
Hours: Mon. 12:00-1:00, or by appointment
Phone: (780) 492-7157
Class Website: https://sites.ualberta.ca/~kloepelm/494/

Marker: Elyse Runac
Email: runac@ualberta.ca
Office: BS P533
Hours: by appointment
Phone: (780) 492-5843

Prerequisites
The required prerequisites for this course are any PSYCO course at the 300-level, or consent of the Department. See UAlberta Calendar section Registration: Prerequisite Course Requirements.

Course Description
The field of human factors psychology and ergonomics uses scientific knowledge about human perception, cognition, and behaviour in specifying the design and use of human-machine systems (such as tools, tasks, jobs, and systems) for productive, safe, comfortable, and effective human use. This course is about: the design of things that people use, intentionally taking into account human abilities and limitations; and the systems approach to understanding complex sociotechnical systems. These themes will be explored in a range of contexts, from the operation of everyday things (e.g., opening doors) to extraordinary systems failures (e.g., the Chernobyl nuclear disaster). This course will help you develop the skills to applying the systems approach to real-world situations. Specific learning objectives will be given in lectures for each topic.

Assessment
- Hands-on project (worth 15%)
- Term paper (worth 30%)
- Midterm exam (worth 25%)
- Final exam (worth 30%)

Midterm Exam: The midterm will test material covered in the relevant assigned readings and in class. Although there is much overlap between the readings and lectures, it is not a complete overlap. Some content is only covered in one or the other. Students are responsible for all material. The midterm will consist of short- and long-answer questions. If you miss the midterm for an acceptable reason such as incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction, or religious conviction (see The Fine Print below), then the weight of the excused exam will be added to the final exam (paper copy declaration form required), then the weight of the excused exam will be added to that of the final. Documentation must be provided within 2 working days of the missed exam. No makeup exams or assignments are accepted. You may be asked to show your ONECard at the exam. See UAlberta Calendar sections Academic Regulation: Attendance and Examinations (Exams).

Final Exam: See the Office of the Registrar's exam schedule for official date, time, and location. This 2-hour exam will have short-answer questions and an essay question, and will emphasize material covered after the midterm. If you miss this exam, you must apply to their Faculty Office for a deferral of the final exam within two working days of the final exam date. You may be asked to show your ONECard at the exam. See UAlberta Calendar sections Academic Regulation: Attendance and Final Examinations.
**Hands-On Project:** This project is a “hands-on” case study assignment, designed to give you the opportunity to apply human factors principles to a real-world case. A brief paper (more than 5 pages, but less than 10) will be required, reviewing the findings, and making critical evaluations; this paper must be written in **APA style**. Your paper is due by the end of class on **Thursday, October 11**. Late papers will be penalized 10% per day. More details are provided in the online hands-on project handout.

**Term Paper:** This paper is intended to immerse you in research in the field of human factors and ergonomics. This can be done in a literature review paper (e.g., a critical review and analysis of published research on a particular topic or aspect of human factors/design). However, you may go beyond the bounds of a traditional paper by also investigating the design of a particular system and talking to the designers to determine exactly how they incorporate (or fail to incorporate) human factors principles, or writing a research proposal. The paper must be written in **APA style**, and the body of the paper must be at least **12 full pages**. This is to ensure that you cover your selected topic in sufficient breadth and depth. Your term paper is due by the end of class on **Tuesday, December 4**. Late papers will be penalized 10% per day. More details are provided in the online term paper handout and in the APA style lecture.

**Grading**

Final grades will be assigned based on the University of Alberta letter grading system. This grade translation is approximate; the instructor reserves the right to use expert judgment to adjust grades as necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>87-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>79-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>75-78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>62-66%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>57-61%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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**Outline of Classes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Assigned readings:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 4, 6</td>
<td>Introduction; History of HF/E</td>
<td>Chapter 1; Proctor &amp; Van Zandt (2018a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 11, 13</td>
<td>The systems approach; Perception &amp; Natural Design</td>
<td>Chapter 2, Gibson (2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 18, 20</td>
<td>Emotional Design; Situation Awareness</td>
<td>Jordan (1997); Morphew, Balmer, &amp; Khoury (2001), Endsley &amp; Jones (2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2, 4</td>
<td>Information vs. knowledge</td>
<td>Chapters 4 &amp; 5, Brigham (2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 9, 11</td>
<td>Human error &amp; reliability</td>
<td>Schmidt &amp; Young (2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hands-on project due: Thurs., Oct. 11</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 16, 18</td>
<td>Human error &amp; systems</td>
<td>Proctor &amp; Van Zandt (2018b)</td>
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<td><strong>Midterm exam: Thurs., Oct. 18</strong></td>
<td><em>(based on all above readings &amp; lectures)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 30, Nov 1</td>
<td>Chernobyl; APA Style</td>
<td>Reason (1987)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 6, 8</td>
<td>Interpersonal, Team, &amp; Group Dynamics; <em>Challenger</em></td>
<td>Griffin (1997); Tufte (1997)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13, 15</td>
<td><strong>No classes (Reading Week)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 20, 22</td>
<td>Accidents, safety, &amp; risk</td>
<td>Parsons, Seminara, &amp; Wogalter (1999); McCauley-Bush (2012); Chapters 6 and 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27, 29</td>
<td>Anthropometry &amp; Universal Design</td>
<td>Guastello (2014); Moray (1994)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 4, 6</td>
<td>Health care systems</td>
<td>Bogner (1994), Reason (2001)</td>
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As per the exam schedule, the final exam is scheduled for **Friday, December 14, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** in **TB 113**. You must verify this date on Bear Tracks when the final exam schedule is posted.

*(Deferred final exam will be held Monday, January 7, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in BS P231.)*

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**Required Readings**

The required readings are available in a coursepack from the bookstore. All readings are also available online on the eClass website for this course. Readings that have been added or changed since the 2017-2018 coursepack are in **bold**. The following entries are *not* necessarily in APA style.


Required Textbook

Recommended Resources

The Fine Print

Academic Integrity
The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspensions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Absences from Examinations
For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes (within three days of the start of Spring or Summer classes) to request accommodation for the term (including the final exam, where relevant). Instructors may request adequate documentation to substantiate the student request.

A student who cannot write the final examination due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reasons can apply for a deferred final examination. Students who failed at the start of term to request exam accommodations for religious beliefs are expected to follow the normal deferred final examination process. Such an application must be made to the student’s Faculty office within two working days of the missed examination and must be supported by appropriate documentation or a Statutory Declaration (see UAlberta Calendar section Absence from Final Exams).

Deferred examinations are a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferred examination will be granted. Misrepresentation of Facts to gain a deferred examination is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

Term Work Policy
With the exception of term work for which students did not receive feedback before the posting of final grades, students must initiate a request for reevaluation of term work with the instructor prior to the day of the final exam or in the case of courses without final exams, before the posting of final grades.

Representative evaluative course material will be presented in class and posted on the eClass website for the course.

Support Services
Students who require additional help in developing strategies for better time management, study skills or examination skills should contact the Academic Success Centre.

Students registered with Accessibility Resources have both rights and responsibilities with regard to accessibility-related accommodations. Consequently, scheduling exam accommodations in accordance with Accessibility Resources’ deadlines and procedures is essential. Please note adherence to procedures and deadlines is required for U of A to provide accommodations. Contact Accessibility Resources for further information.

Recording Permissions Policy
Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course (e.g., lecture notes) is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Other Policies
Any typographical errors in this Course Outline are subject to change and will be announced in class. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar.

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