**Syllabus 1: COURSE 130 User Interface Design and Analysis**

*About The Course*

This course introduces students to graphical user interface design through analysis of empirical studies and hands-on application of human-computer interaction principles. The goals of the course are to have students understand the fundamental processes through which people interact with computer interfaces and to apply this knowledge to the production of electronic media for the World Wide Web. In part this process means entering into the discourse community of usability specialists (interface designers, usability engineers, web designers, information architects, etc), a step that will help prepare you to enter into a career involving electronic media design.

*Required Materials*

Brinck, Gergle, and Wood Usability for the Web

Coe Human Factors for Technical Communicators

Articles on the e-College shell.

*Assignments in the Course*

This course is offered at a bridge-level for both upper level undergraduates and graduate students of the M.S. program. To receive graduate credit for the course, all graduate students must do extra work on these projects: a brief paper or analysis . . . etc. . . .

Two exams (50% undergraduates; 40% graduate students)

The exams will be given on days specified in the schedule, are due approximately 1 week from the time they are given, and may be open-book. The exam questions will cover the readings from the text and notes from class since the previous exam. Exams should be completed in MS-Word and e-mailed to me at filipp.sapienza@cudenver.edu. The exam dates are listed in the schedule.

User Interface Plan and Proposal (50% )

The purpose of this project is to give you an opportunity to develop a user interface mockup and design as one might do in a professional setting. Working alone or with a partner of your choosing, develop a user interface plan and proposal. Details for this project are made available in the e-College shell for the course. The project due date is listed in the schedule.

Book Review (10%; graduate students only)

The purpose of the book review is to give graduate students exposure to the kinds of research conducted in user interface design. If you plan to enter into the workforce in this area, the one main benefit your graduate education will bring to an organization is your ability to understand and apply theoretical and experimental research data toward a specific problem. Details for this project are made available in the e-College shell for the course.

*Course Policies*

Attendance, Involvement, Engagement and Participation

(This is a policy of all the courses). Because this is an online course, primary responsibility for learning rests on the shoulders of students. There will be opportunities to interact with other students throughout the semester as well as with me using forums and other utilities provided in the e-college space. You are advised to take advantage of these opportunities when they arise. Proper etiquette and civility is a basic requirement for participation on these discussion fora.

Technical Support

(This policy only applies to this course.) While you are welcome to use whatever software and hardware you want for the course, I do not have the resources to be your technical support resource or troubleshoot technical problems with your PC or with the required software. Because I/we have no way of addressing the particularities of each computer system, you will need to take primary responsibility for configuring your own home computer setup. If you are in a lab on campus and you have technical support questions, you need to contact ITS or the lab administrator in the lab you happen to be working in. For technical problems with the CU-Online/Blackboard site, please contact their help desk.

# *Schedule for this Semester*

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| August 26 | INTRODUCTIONS and REVIEW COURSE / WHAT IS USABILITY |

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| September 2 | REVIEW OF HTML / JOB TRENDS IN TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION  [Usability in the Electoral Process: The "Butterfly Ballot"](file:///C:\Users\WMS\Fil%20Homepage\filippsapienza.com\content\xmlPAGE\callschedule130.xml) Also, visit [About.com](http://webdesign.about.com/) and [HTML goodies](http://www.htmlgoodies.com/tutors/tbl.html)  *On reserve* - Giammona, Barbara "The Future of Technical Communication"  **Project 1** [**"A Usability Analysis of a Website"**](file:///C:\Users\WMS\Fil%20Homepage\filippsapienza.com\content\xmlPAGE\callschedule130.xml) **due no later than 5pm September 8** |

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| September 9 | REVIEW CSS AND IMAGE EDITING  If you do not know Cascading Style Sheets by hand, please visit the [Web Design Group Guide to CSS.](http://www.htmlhelp.com/reference/css/) You can also visit [Dave Raggett's CSS Guide.](http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/Guide/Style)  Coe - pp. 1-28; pp 38-46, and chapter 2  **Project 2** [**"How To Take Care of a Pet Mouse"**](file:///C:\Users\WMS\Fil%20Homepage\filippsapienza.com\content\xmlPAGE\callschedule130.xml) **due no later than 5pm September 12** |