FAQ / How-To Guide for INFO6410 / CS5682: HCI and Design
Instructor: Nicki Dell

I am taking INFO6410/CS5682. What should I do?
This course will be primarily administered via Canvas – https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/33423. You should ensure you have access to Canvas via your Cornell account. You should monitor the course calendar and Canvas site closely so that you receive important communications and announcements.

We will also use the #hci-and-design-2021 channel within Cornell Tech’s slack team. Here, we will post important announcements and communication. Slack also provides you with a way to directly message Nicki and the course TAs. Make sure you join the channel and check it regularly!

On Canvas, there is a module for each topic we will cover, typically two per week: one for Monday and one for Wednesday. Each module consists of (1) a required reading, (2) a pre-recorded video lecture, (3) a short (5-minute) Canvas quiz, (4) an online discussion, and (5) a live class. You MUST do the reading, watch the video lecture, and take the quiz BEFORE attending the class for that day. During class, we will have live Q&A and you will complete an individual or small group activity that gives you hands-on practice with the day’s topic. This activity will be turned in and graded.

The course will follow Cornell Tech Covid-19 guidelines. At the time of writing, the expectation is that all students are required to attend class on campus, in-person. Remote attendance is only allowed if you are unable to attend in-person due to Covid-19, whether it is travel restrictions, quarantine requirements, symptoms that trigger the Cornell Daily Check, and so forth. You must let the instructor/TA know if one of the above apply to get the remote participation details (i.e., Zoom link). Everyone else is required to attend in person. If the campus COVID-19 guidelines change, the course will adjust accordingly.

I’m not enrolled in the course, but I’d like to attend the first lecture. Can I do that?
If you are considering taking the course and want to attend the first few lectures, please feel free to show up. You should also join the #hci-and-design-2021 channel within Cornell Tech’s slack team. Relevant links and other course materials are pinned to the channel.

What do I need to do before coming to class?
This course follows a flipped-classroom model. It is your responsibility to come to class well-prepared to complete the day’s hands-on activity. This means that, BEFORE the day’s class, you MUST:
(1) do the required reading – usually a short, relevant article or blog post
(2) watch the pre-recorded video lecture (15-25 minutes)
(3) complete the relevant quiz in Canvas (5 minutes)
(4) post any questions you have about the day’s topic to the relevant canvas discussion board

What will we do during class?
Before class begins, you should ensure that you have (1) done the reading, (2) watched the video lecture, (3) completed the five-minute quiz, and (4) posted any questions you have about the day’s topic to the canvas discussion board.

Live in-class sessions will usually consist of (1) a few minutes of live Q&A on the day’s topic, and (2) individual or small group activities in which you apply and practice the method covered in the lecture.
These activities **will** be turned in and graded. You are welcome to complete the activity using **any tools you choose** provided that you can collaborate appropriately with your teammates if needed. You will usually submit your activity as a pdf via Gradescope.

**How do the quizzes work?**
Most days, you will complete a short, 5-minute quiz on the day’s topic BEFORE you attend class. Quizzes will be administered via Canvas. The quiz is designed to ensure you understand the course material and come prepared to make the most of the hands-on activity.

Quiz questions cover BOTH the required reading AND the pre-recorded video lecture. Each quiz consists of 4 multiple choice questions (randomly selected). Once you begin the quiz, you will have five minutes to complete it. You cannot return to previous questions. Quizzes will be available on canvas from 9am the day before class until five minutes before class.

Quizzes **will** be graded. If you miss a quiz, you cannot retake it. Instead, we will deduct your **three** lowest quiz scores from your final grade. This allows you to miss up to three quizzes, without penalty, for reasons including: illness, religious holidays, job interviews, doctor’s appointments, etc.

**How do the homeworks work?**
Students will complete five homework assignments over the semester. These are a core deliverable for the class, with each assignment worth 10% of your final grade. The homework gives you more opportunities to practice the concepts and methods you learn in class. Check canvas for homework due dates, descriptions, and submission instructions.

**What if I still have questions?**
If you still have questions, the chances are other people have them too. Please post them in Slack or on Canvas so Nicki and the TAs can answer them for everyone. Of course, if it’s a private/individual question, you can send Nicki or the TAs a direct message on Slack.

**I want to enroll in the class but I can’t / I am on the waitlist. How do I enroll?**
Enrollment is managed by student services. Please communicate with them. They need to manually move students off waiting lists into classes, so please be patient. In the meantime, please DO read the material, watch lecture videos, do the quizzes, and attend class so you do not miss important material while you wait to be enrolled.

**Tolerance, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Assuming the Best**
In this course and all our lives, I want to emphasize the importance of virtues like tolerance, compassion, forgiveness, and assuming the best. The TAs and I are human. We will inevitably make mistakes. When you find a mistake, let me know, and forgive me for making it. If something seems odd (e.g., apparently there’s a problem with Canvas where it will show you a grade based on things that were auto-graded but not warn you that manually graded things have not yet been factored in), let us know, and assume that it’s a system problem, not us grading you down. We all collectively carry the weight of this "new normal."

We will all get through this together, we will be a community of students, TAs, and instructors. We will take care of each other. We will hopefully find points of laughter, and we will embrace the fact that we are learning together. When there are bumps in the road, our tolerance, compassion, forgiveness, and assuming the best will help us all handle them with grace and good humor.