NYU - School of Continuing and Professional Studies Website Usability I: Foundations

SYLLABUS Course Number: WDES1-CE9245/ Non-Credit / Applicable towards Certificate

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE** in Digital and Graphic Design Production

**Location** Woolworth Building, 15 Barclay Street Room 335B

Class Times 2 Sessions

Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 | 9:30 ~ 5:30

**Instructor** Cathline Marshall

**Contact Information** Phone: 212.987 0076 (M thru F | 10 am ~ 6 pm)

c.marshall.nyu@gmail (Please allow 24 hours for reply.)

All handouts, slides and other resources are available at

http://nyuusability.wordpress.com/

**Course Objective**To provide a foundation that will allow students to successfully build a usable

website. We will look at the roles information architecture, navigation, design, and writing play in creating a usable website. Additionally, we will perform a usability

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test. Each class will have lecture and workshop segments.

Course Description as per

catalogue

Usability is a crucial factor in a website's success. Discover proven methods for integrating key elements, such as user-centered design, information architecture, rapid prototyping, and usability assessment, into the development process. Learn best practices in usability, including cost-effective methods of user interface design, implementation, and evaluation. Discover mental models, usability lifecycle, interaction styles, and user profiles, and get hands-on practice applying these methods in a variety of environments. Ensure that sites meet the needs and expectations of the organization and users.

This course is applicable toward:

Certificate in Digital and Graphic Design Production

Certificate in Web Producing

**Grading** Attendance and punctuality: 25%

Class participation: 25% Homework: 50%

**Course Policy** Your attendance and participation is essential in the class, as we will be doing

group based exercises. Your final grade will be reduced 12.5% for a single missed

class and two missed classes will not result in a passing grade.

Homework must be handed in on time in order to receive a grade.

**Homework** Please type and electronically submit your homework to c.marshall.nyu@gmail.

Wireframes and designs may be sketched and handed in by hand. They must be

legible.

**Required Textbooks** Don't Make Me Think: A Common Sense Approach to Web Usability, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Steve Krug, New Riders Press 2005

Rocket Surgery Made Easy

Steve Krug, New Riders Press 2010

(Commonly available at Barnes & Noble. Also available from Amazon and BN.com as

an ebook.)

Research Based Web Design & Usability Guidelines U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Available as free PDF from http://usability.gov/guidelines/guidelines\_book.pdf

## NYU - School of Continuing and Professional Studies Website Usability I: Foundations

**Topics Covered\*** 

Class One What is Usability?

Mental Models Heuristics

User & Business Goals Information Architecture

Navigation

Wireframing/Protptypes

Personas

**Class Two** User Testing

Accessibility Screen reader Usability Guidelines

Forms

Technology (Morae & Eye Tracking)

**Emotion and Design** 

\* Note: Lesson details and schedule is subject to change due to current events and/or level and interests of students.

**Additional Reading** Web Form Design: Filling in the Blanks

Luke Wroblewski

Eye Tracking Web Usability

Jacob Nielsen

Designing Web Usability

Jacob Nielsen

The Design of Everyday Things

Donald Norman

The Inmates Are Running the Asylum: Why High Tech Products Drive Us Crazy and How to

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Restore the Sanity
Alan Cooper

Neuro Web Design: What Makes Them Click

Susan M. Weinschenk, Ph.D. Art & Science of Web Design

Jeffrey Veen

## **Grade Descriptions**

Grade	Verbal Interpretation	Gradations, Conversions & Scales
A	Excellent work. Superior effort.	There is no A+ A = 93 - 100 = 4.0 A- = 90 - 92 = 3.7
В	Very good work.	B+ = 87 - 89 = 3.3 B = 83 - 86 = 3.0 B- = 80 - 82 = 2.7
С	Satisfactory work.	C+=77-79=2.3 C=73-76=2.0 C-=70-72=1.7
D	Pass. Met minimal course requirements.	D+=67-69=1.5 D=65-66=1.0 There is no D-
F	Fail. Unsatisfactory work.	F = below 65 = 0.0
N	No Grade.	Cannot be applied to a Certificate. Faculty assigns this grade for unofficial withdrawal (student disappears or excessive absences.)
NE	Non-evaluative. (Requested or automatic)	Cannot be applied to a Certificate. An NE grade cannot subsequently be changed to an evaluative grade.  Requested: If the course is evaluative, an evaluative grade can only be changed to a non-evaluative grade at the student's request and with the approval of the instructor.  Automatic: If the course is a non-evaluative course, the NE will be issued automatically by the Registrar's Office. Faculty will not receive a grade report for these courses.  (See Grade Reporting and attached form for process for requesting an NE.)

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