Visual Foundations of HCI & Design

Eli Blevis, Professor of Informatics
Braden King, Associate Instructor

Visual Foundations Open Lab Workshops Co-Organizers:
Kayla Cooper
Cecilia Gutknecht
Miringu Kiarie
Braden King
Patrycja (Trisha) Zdziarska

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Welcome.

I reserve the right to attend the class if the course is of the utmost importance. Please be sure you have the latest version.

Summary

This class is a studio-style class. It is practical, skills-oriented studio-style class. It is intended to give you an opportunity to learn and hone your visual literacy skills in the context of developing your own professional online and print-form presence. While most students attend for only two semesters, (1) First, an individual plan for you to create or extend your professional presence according to your specific career goals. The work from the studio style, those with some interaction in the visual literacy of HCI, as well as those who are interested in some categories of visual design tools, as well as some uncommon ones as needed. The software tools are generally provided to you through iuware.iu.edu. If you do not already own a camera other than a cell phone camera, I will share advice with you about purchasing a camera. Students of this class are required to attend the student-led Visual Foundations of HCI Open Labs/Workshops.

Studio Class

Each student will deliver the visual materials that help establish professional presence. There may vary individually, depending on career goals. The three broad categories of career goals include employment as a practitioner, self-employment as an entrepreneur, or scholarly employment as faculty or researcher in a university or research lab in industry. By the third week of the class, you will have produced a written plan for your particular goals in the class. I will help you with this from the start. You will need to organize your work early and during the course of the class to show steady progress. In the last few weeks, we will need to submit all of your materials—these will most likely include links to your website portfolio, print-form portfolios, resumes and/or vitae. You may negotiate different formats as part of your individual plan.

Definitions

Visual Foundations refers to knowledge and skills in the visual materials used in HCI and Interaction Design. These include software tools such as Sketch, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign. The basic tools also include advanced understanding of the finer points of using MS Office tools, including Word, PowerPoint, and Excel to create meaningful diagrams, typographically focused presentations, and animations. Emphasis is on which individual goals you personally will set. The tools will include those that help you meet those goals (e.g. Sketch, Adobe). These tools may range from the variety of VR, AR, or video editing tools to the many tools that create text and image presence beyond the Adobe suite, to tools that enable scholar- ship, such as humanities Scholar, Google Scholar, Google Analytics, the ACM Digital Library and others.

Forms of Deliverables

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Useful for most students, the primary utility of the course is to prepare for the career fair (HCId Connect) that occurs around February. For some others, the primary utility may be to prepare for PhD or Doctoral applications, or to produce strategic plans to begin an entrepreneurial venture.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the class, you should know or have reduced your abilities to:

1. Know your own goals and structure your time in order to meet them.
2. Use important design tools such as Adobe InDesign, Lightroom, and Photoshop, and even how to use tools like MS Word and PowerPoint in more designerly ways.
3. Understand rudiments and some advanced principles of photography and both digital and traditional photographic tools for the context of HCI and Interaction Design. This includes some basic knowledge of the physics of optics and sensor, as well as some basic knowledge of photographic aesthetics.
4. Understand how to be thoughtful in your use of images and feedback provided to those who are presenting, or work that you provide.
5. Know the use of visual materials in HCI and Interaction Design.

Utility

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5. Know the use of visual materials in HCI and Interaction Design.

Studio-based Lectures

Section 36901: We meet every Monday 6:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in Informatics West, I2 122.
Section 36921: We meet every Wednesday 6:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in Informatics West, I2 122.

I may provide some common instruction each class for the first 45 minutes. Then, participants may individually have their time for up to 20 minutes. Random Riddles. You may choose to help your peers when they have the floor, or you may talk quickly on your own during this time, or both. You must attend each lecture. When you are not presenting you must either help with the orations and feedback provided to those who are presenting, or work that you provide. The use of social media or other distractions during the studio-based lectures is not permitted.

Visual Foundations of HCI Open Labs

Students in this class are required to attend the Virtual Visual Foundations of HCI Open Labs (VFOL). These (lab) workshops are led by a group of students in the HCI U program. The Associate Instructor is a member of that group. The meeting times for the lab are Sunday 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the design studio. The VFOL will provide its programmatic content. The context is intended to scaffold your success in the class and to program more generally. The VFOL Labs are open to everyone in the program. I will sometimes attend and help students for feedback purposes. By outside experts when needed and available. The lab content informs your grade in the class only as the things you learn in this lab show in your deliverables.

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Contacts and Office Hours
Eli Blevis, Ph.D.
Professor of Informatics | School of Informatics and Computing (SoIC), Indiana University Bloomington
Visiting & Adjunct Professor of Interaction Design | School of Design, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
eblevis@indiana.edu
eli.informatics.indiana.edu
I am generally in my office afternoons 1:00-4:00. The best thing is to make an appointment, since I travel a lot for conferences and presentations, workshops, and so forth.
Braden King
Associate Instructor
bnking@umail.iu.edu
Office hours, by appointment.

Additional Important Information

Accommodations & Feedback
We welcome your feedback. We will do our best to accommodate specific requests if they are reasonable and have merit.

Academic Misconduct
The class is morally and procedurally bound by IU's policies on academic misconduct, the details of which you can read about at the following website: www.indiana.edu/~code/code.html (access outside IU requires IU login).

Religious Observance
In accordance with the Office of the Dean of Faculty, any student who wishes to receive an excused absence from class must submit a request form available from the Dean of Faculty for each day to be absent. The forms must be returned to the course professor by the second week of the semester. A separate form must be submitted for each absence. The form must be signed by the instructor, with a copy retained by the instructor, and the original returned to the course professor. Information about the policy on religious observance can be found here: www.indiana.edu/~vpfaa/holidays.shtml

English
If English is not your native language or you are otherwise shy about speaking in class, please do not worry. You will not be penalized in any way for making contributions to the class in less-than-perfect English or for taking time to compose your answers. You are welcome to say what you want to say in your language of choice first and then ask for help from others to translate to English. I will frequently emphasize in the class the need for all of us to be supportive of each other when it comes to contributing to the discussions. There is no need to feel rushed when responding to questions in class—an important part of the class is the construction of a feeling of community with the faculty and your peers.

Imporant Notice
At your initiative, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. Title IX and our own Sexual Misconduct policy prohibit sexual misconduct. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help. You can make an appointment with the Mental Health Counselor on campus (contact information available at: http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/employee/confidential.html)

It is also important that you know that federal regulations and University policy require me to promptly notify any information about potential sexual misconduct known to me to the Deputy Title IX Coordinator or IU's Title IX Coordinator. In that event, they will work with a small number of others in the campus to ensure that appropriate resources are taken and resources are made available to the student who may have been harmed. Protecting a student's privacy is of utmost concern, and all involved will only share information with those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist.