

The University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Communication
CTEC 2350-001: Introduction to Communication Technology
SYLLABUS

Instructor: Chunke Su, Ph.D.
Class location: FA 412
Time: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:50pm
E-mail: chunkesu@uta.edu
Office Location: FA 413B
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:00PM or by appointment
Office Phone: 817-272-2163
Course Website: <http://elearn.uta.edu>

This is a tentative syllabus. There may be changes to this syllabus if necessary. Changes will be announced in class or via email.

Course information:

This course introduces students to a variety of communication technologies. Students will investigate the design, implementation, and use of communication technologies, and explore relevant sociological and economical issues. This course will also provide an introduction to theoretical and conceptual frameworks related to the growing field of computer-mediated communication and human-computer interactions.

Course modules:

Module 01- History of the Internet

Module 02- Internet and Web technologies

Module 03- Web search & Internet security and privacy

Module 04- Skills: (X)HTML and CSS

Module 05- Skills: XML and RSS

Module 06- Skills: Workflow of Web design

Module 07- Group-led discussion: Web navigation and architecture

Module 08- Group-led discussion: Web writing

Module 09- Group-led discussion: Product information on the Web

Module 10- Group-led discussion: Technology use on the Web

Course readings:

Required textbook:

Prioritizing Web Usability, by Nielsen & Loranger, © 2006, New Riders.

Additional readings:

Additional readings will be available on the course web site.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The goal of this course is to help students:

- Grasp a solid understanding of communication theories to study the Internet-based technologies and their relations to social practices;
- Acquire hands-on experience with the uses and applications of several communication technologies;
- Learn to evaluate and critique the usability of the Web;
- Work as an “aware” team member.

Course Evaluations:

4 Technology assignments	300 pts (50, 100, 100, 50 pts)
4 Quizzes	200 pts (50 pts each)
Mid-term exam	200 pts
Group-led discussions on Web usability	100 pts*
Final Web design project – presentation	50 pts
Final Web design project – Website	150 pts
Total	1000 pts

**Graded based on group performance and individual contributions. After completion of the group assignments, group members will evaluate each other's contribution to the group project. If two or more members in your group report that your effort is below 100%, and you do not have proof of a valid medical excuse or extenuating reason, your grade will be reduced accordingly.*

Grading

The grades will be determined according to the following scale:

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
900 - 1000	A
800 - 899	B
700 - 799	C
600 - 699	D
Below 600	F

Course Schedule:

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1	January 18 Introduction, syllabus, class overview and course web site	January 20 Module 1: History of the Internet
Week 2	January 25 Module 2: Internet and Web technologies	January 27 Quiz 1 Module 3: Web search and Internet security and privacy
Week 3	February 1 Module 4: X(HTML) and CSS - Introduction Tech Assignment 1	February 3 Module 4: X(HTML) and CSS - Introduction
Week 4	February 8 Quiz 2 Module 4: X(HTML) and CSS - Typography	February 10 Tech Assignment 1 due by 2pm Module 4: X(HTML) and CSS - Navigation and Information Architecture
Week 5	February 15 Module 4: X(HTML) and CSS - Navigation and Information Architecture	February 17 Tech Assignment 2
Week 6	February 22 Tech Assignment 2	February 24 Module 4: X(HTML) and CSS - Page Layout
Week 7	March 1 Module 4: X(HTML) and CSS - Page Layout	March 3 Quiz 3 Tech Assignment 2 due by 2pm Mid-term exam review

Week 8	March 8 Mid-term Exam	March 10 Tech Assignment 3
Week 9	March 15 Spring break	March 17 Spring break
Week 10	March 22 Instructions for group-led discussion and web design project Tech Assignment 3	March 24 Module 5: XML & RSS
Week 11	March 29 Tech Assignment 3 due by 2pm Module 5: XML & RSS Tech Assignment 4	March 31 Quiz 4 Group work day
Week 12	April 5 Tech Assignment 4 due by 2pm Module 6: Workflow of web design	April 7 Module 6: Workflow of web design
Week 13	April 12 Module 6: Workflow of web design	April 14 Group-led discussion: Module 7: Web Navigation and Architecture
Week 14	April 19 Group-led discussion: Module 8: Web Writing	April 21 Group-led discussion: Module 9: Product Information on the Web
Week 15	April 26 Group-led discussion: Module 10: Technology use on the Web	April 28 Web design project work day
Week 16	May 3 Web design presentations	May 5 Web design presentations Peer evaluation
Final Exam Week	May 10, 11AM Web design project due	

Course Communication:

All course-related information will be posted on the course website. Students may contact the instructor via email, office phone or in-person. Please begin your email subject heading with “CTEC 2350” to ensure instructor’s prompt attention.

Important course-related information such as announcements and reminders will be primarily communicated to students via email on UTA domains. Students are required to check their UTA email at least twice a week. Students are responsible for seeking help from the OIT help desk if they have problems accessing their UTA email accounts.

Course Policies:

Make-Up Policy:

Quizzes and the mid-term exam must be taken during the scheduled exam time. A make-up quiz or exam can only be taken if the student presents proof of a valid medical excuse or extenuating circumstance. Medical excuses and extenuating circumstances will be verified and judged as warranting a special case by the instructor. If you have to miss an exam, you have to inform the instructor before the exam time to be considered to take a make-up exam. There is NO extra credit assignment or test for this course.

No make-up will be granted for student-led discussions and group presentations. All make-up exams will be scheduled in the final exam week.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to be present for all classes. Your attendance may be recorded. However, your grade will not be adjusted for your attendance record.

Drop Policy:

It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the drop process. Please see the University academic calendar for the last day to drop classes.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity:

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available:

The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.