



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 425 – Human Factors**  
**Fall 2008**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Jeff Caird	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:jkcaird@ucalgary.ca">jkcaird@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Office:</b>	Admin. 222	<b>Lecture</b>	MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m.
		<b>Days/Time:</b>	
<b>Office</b>	M, W, F: 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. or by	<b>Lecture</b>	SH 284
<b>Hours:</b>	appointment	<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	220-5571		
<b>Lab</b>	Shaunna Milloy	<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:slmilloy@ucalgary.ca">slmilloy@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Instructor:</b>		<b>Lab</b>	LAB 01: T 9:00 to 10:50
<b>Office:</b>	A067	<b>Days/Time:</b>	a.m.
			LAB 02: Th. 1:00 to 2:50
			p.m.
<b>Office</b>	TBA	<b>Lab</b>	A248
<b>Hours:</b>		<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	220-5910		

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**Course Description:** This course surveys the theory and data pertaining to the relationships between human and machine behavior. A research paper is an integral part of this course. Psychology 312 is a prerequisite.

**Topics to be covered:**

1. Introduction and Historical Context
2. Research & Evaluation Methods
3. Sensory Systems
4. Cognition & Decision Making
5. Displays & Controls
6. Anthropometry & Workplace Design
7. Stress & Workload
8. Accidents and Human Error
9. Human-Computer Interaction & Automation
10. Transportation Human Factors
11. Medical Human Factors
12. Technosophy & Human Factors

**Texts:** (Available at the Bookstore and online.)

Vicente, K. (2003). *The Human Factor*. Toronto: Vintage Canada.

Wickens, C. D., Lee, J., Lui, Y., & Gordon-Becker, S. (2004). *An Introduction to Human Factors Engineering (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Education.

## **Evaluation**

### **Examinations:**

- 1) A quiz will be given on **September 29th** that covers Vicente (2003).
- 2) The mid-term exam on **October 17th (F)** will cover readings and lectures through October 15th (W).
- 3) The final exam will stress the final half of the course readings and lectures, however, a portion of it will be cumulative (e.g., usability, sensation and perception, etc.). The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar.
- 4) The format of exams is approximately 40% multiple choice and 60% essay. Exams are closed book.

### **Laboratories:**

Approximately five laboratories assignments are required and comprise 25% of the final grade. The TA will provide a detailed syllabus that outlines each of the laboratories and marking expectations. Students must achieve a passing grade on both the class and lab components to pass this course.

### **Written Papers:**

A major written paper is part of the course requirements. A paper proposal is due during lab on October 21<sup>st</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. The paper proposal should be structured into a one-page outline of the topics that are to be addressed in the review. The instructor and the T.A. will provide guidance in the selection of appropriate topics. Students are expected to select a topic, research it in depth, write a review outside of class, and edit it extensively. APA (5.0) formatted papers shall not exceed twenty pages inclusive of references. Papers are due **Nov. 28th (F) at 4:00 p.m. No exceptions.** I will not accept emailed papers. Students will give a presentation of their paper for about 5

minutes in class (Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>). The presentation should cover the topic reviewed and the important conclusions reached.

**Distribution of Grades:**

Laboratory Assignments	25%
Quiz	10%
Paper	25%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Feedback will be liberally provided so that you will know how you are performing in the class. For example, each component will be assigned a numerical score and a letter grade (e.g., 171 out of 200 points for a B on the mid-term).

**Grading Scale:**

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via bonus credits.

**IMPORTANT Class Policies:**

- 1.) Your laboratory reports and research papers are due on the days listed. Late assignments will not be accepted. Exam make-ups and late assignments will be considered for "university valid" excuses and only with sufficient documentation. Make-up exams will be essay only and more difficult than the exam given to the whole class.
- 2.) Laboratories are to be handed to the instructor or placed in the green box outside A275 prior to the due date and time. The written paper must be submitted as hardcopy and by email forms. No late assignments will be accepted (i.e., a 0 will be assigned).
- 3.) When questions arise about a particular laboratory, paper, or exam score, a student must discuss their work with the instructor or T.A. within two weeks after it has been returned. Failure to pick-up assignments when they are returned is not a valid excuse. After two weeks re-evaluation will not be considered.
- 4.) Any tape recordings of lectures must be approved by the lecturer and students in this course may be asked to participate in departmentally approved studies.

## Schedule of Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings:

Topic	Reading
History/Intro	Chapter 1
Research Methods	Chapter 2
Design and Evaluation Methods	Chapter 3
Usability Engineering	
Visual Sensory Systems	Chapter 4
Audition, Tactile, Vestibular	Chapter 5
Cognition/Attention	Chapter 6
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>October 17th (F)</b>
Decision Making	Chapter 7
Displays	Chapter 8
Controls	Chapter 9
Anthropometry/Workspace Design	Chapter 10
Stress & Workload	Chapter 13
Human Error	Chapter 13
Medical HF	
Aging HF	
Transportation HF	Chapter 17
Papers Due: <b>Nov. 28th (F) @ 4:00 p.m.</b>	Final Examination: <b>TBA</b>

## Important Dates:

No Labs	September 9 <sup>th</sup> (T) and 11 <sup>th</sup> (Th)
Last day to get a refund	September 19 <sup>th</sup> (F)
<b>Quiz</b>	Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup> (M)
<b>Midterm Exam:</b>	October 17 <sup>th</sup> (F)
<b>Paper Proposals Due:</b>	October 21 <sup>st</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> (Scheduled In Lab.)
Reading Days (No lecture)	November 8 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> (No Lectures)
Remembrance Day (No lecture)	Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> (M)
<b>Papers Due:</b>	Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> (F) @ 4:00 p.m.
<b>Paper Presentations:</b>	Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> , Dec. 1, 3, 5 (Scheduled)
Last Day of Lectures	Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup> (F)
Last Day to Withdraw	December 5 <sup>th</sup> (F)
<b>Final Exam</b>	To be scheduled by Registrar's office

## Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next fifteen days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same.

If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within fifteen days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

*It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations.* If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test**

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to an individual's final grade. Students can create an account and access the Research Participation System website at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in research is **December 4, 2008**.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building, room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is September 19, 2008.  
The last day to **withdraw** from this course is December 5, 2008.