

Course Overview
CSE 3461 3.0

User Interfaces

Topics for Today

- Who am I?
- Why take this course?
- What this course entails
- The course syllabus

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Who Am I?

- some background from your instructor

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Why take this course?

- CSE3461 is a prerequisite for:
 - CSE 4441
Human-Computer Interaction
 - CSE 4461
Hypermedia and Multimedia Technology
- It is interesting, fun, and useful

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What this Course Entails...

1. Attendance of two 90-minute lectures per week.
2. Weekly readings.
3. *Frequent* monitoring of course website
 - preferably in the 12-hour period *before* lecture (for instructor announcements, discussion board)
4. Completion of course assignments and preparation for term tests and final exam.
5. Additional contact with instructor from:
 - Weekly office hours
 - Meeting by appointment (to be arranged in advance if unable to attend office hours)

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Course Objectives

You will be able to:

- design, implement and evaluate basic graphical interfaces
 - Swing components, part of the Java Foundation Classes (JFC).
- describe and apply design key concepts
E.g., *affordance, gulf of execution, multimodality, interface design, interaction design, ...*
- describe and apply SW design concepts:
MVC design pattern, event-based programming

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Evaluation/Grades/Marks

- Course Evaluation
 - Two term tests (15% each, total 30%)
 - Three assignments (5%+10%+15%=30%)
 - Final Exam (40%)
- It's a two-way street...
 - Instructor and Course are evaluated by students

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Evaluation/Grades/Marks (II)

- The Course:
 - Relevance of texts and supplementary readings
 - Relevance of assignments
 - Relevance of tests and examinations
 - Relevance of course with respect to other COSC courses
 - Relevance of course in general
 - Organization of course
 - Appropriateness of pace with which material is covered
 - Appropriateness of complexity of the material
 - Rating of assignment and test grading
 - Overall rating of course

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Evaluation / Grades / Marks (II)

- The Instructor:
 - Is well prepared and organized
 - Presents material clearly
 - Knows the subject
 - Shows interest in the subject
 - Is sensitive to student's level of understanding
 - Provides opportunity for questions and discussions in class
 - Is helpful to students in course matters
 - Is reasonably accessible to students
 - Provides helpful comments and feedback on assignments

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Comments on Marking Policy...

[adapted from P. Roosen-Runge]

- The numerical score on an assignment, test or exam is never "out of" anything
 - it is the sum of scores assigned to questions, occasionally individually adjusted where appropriate.
 - You can't "lose marks" for anything — you didn't have them to begin with.
- Letter grades are *assigned* to numerical scores
 - The numerical score is not to be interpreted as or converted to a percentage.
 - The basis for the assignment reflects the meaning of each letter grade as determined by the York Senate and published in the *York Undergraduate Programmes Calendar*.

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Comments on Marking Policy...

- Only the letter grades have meaning
 - the numerical scores are used only in order to compute the letter grade (e.g., in cases where there are many questions or problems in a single piece of work)
- Marks are never "belled" or "curved"
 - or anything else in the sense of being adjusted to approximate a normal distribution.
 - Marks aren't usually normally distributed anyway.
- The course mark is the weighted average of six letter grades
 - 3 Assignments, 2 Term Tests, 1 Final Exam

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About the Assignments...

“If assignment has a [sic] detail outline of marking scheme, we will know how to do our assign. to match the scheme in order to score higher mark”

Anonymous student evaluation, winter 2003

→ Figuring out which features your interface should have is part of doing the assignment. The detailed marking scheme, if we revealed it in advance, would give away the solution.

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What you need to do to succeed...

- Stamina is better than brilliant bursts: pace yourself
- Practice using the code examples: compile them, run them, tinker with them
- Take good notes
 - What questions do you ask yourself when studying?
- Form study groups
- Don't wait until the last minute
- Don't misapply mindset from other CSE courses