

Course Syllabus

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Course Description

Content - User-centered design results in robust solutions that successfully address real human problems. In this course, you will learn about methods and principles of user-centered design to explore a problem space and the people within that space, identify users' needs, system constraints and requirements, and ultimately design solutions that incorporate all those components. Designs will be iterated from initial concepts to really valuable solutions by gathering feedback and usability testing prototypes with users throughout the course. The course project will culminate with the development of a robust design that addresses the identified problem. Final project presentations will take place at the end of the course; this course has no final exam.

Delivery - The delivery of this course will be different from standard lecture-based courses. You will sit through a handful of lectures and complete in-class activities to get hands-on experience with the content. This subset of lectures will prepare you for an intermediate group project milestone. You will then work within your team during the scheduled tutorial sessions and outside of the course hours to complete a project report. Once the project milestone has been passed, you will sit through another set of lectures, and the process will repeat.

Expectations - Sustained and deep engagement, which requires regular and punctual attendance (lectures, tutorials), and preparation before class (mandatory readings and pre-recorded lectures), is expected of all students.

Learning Objectives

This course is designed to provide students with the foundations necessary for understanding and applying user-centered design to address real-world problems. The learning objectives are:

1. to practice research methods for understanding user needs and practices.
2. to interpret raw data and create design artifacts (e.g., personas, scenarios).
3. to brainstorm, sketch and design prototypes that solve real user problems.
4. to evaluate prototypes (one's and others') for usability, learnability, and usefulness.
5. to work in multidisciplinary design teams.

Course Details

Course policies: [Course Policies \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/pages/course-policies?wrap=1\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/pages/course-policies?wrap=1)
Grading scheme: [Grading Scheme \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/pages/grading-scheme?wrap=1\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/pages/grading-scheme?wrap=1)
Studios: [Studio Divisions \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/pages/studio-divisions\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/pages/studio-divisions)
Joining from Waitlist: [Joining from Waitlist \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/pages/joining-from-waitlist\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/pages/joining-from-waitlist)

Office Hours






Wednesday 6:00–7:00 PM

BA 5226 or Zoom: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/82242339168> ↗ (<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/82242339168>)

Prerequisites


CSC300H1 provides useful background for work in CSC318H1, so if you plan to take CSC300H1 then you should do it before CSC318H1. No required background, but any of the following is an asset: graphic design and image manipulation; technical writing; research and literature review experience; mobile or web development; psychology or human cognition.













Course Summary:



Date	Details	Due
Wed Sep 13, 2023	 L1: Design Thinking & Course Introduction (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672902&include_contexts=course_315071)	3pm to 5pm
Fri Sep 15, 2023	 L2: User Research (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672913&include_contexts=course_315071)	3pm to 5pm
Mon Sep 18, 2023	 L1 + L2 Quiz (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1140998)	due by 4pm
	 L1: In-Class Activity (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141015)	due by 4pm
	 L2: In-Class Activity (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141016)	due by 4pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Sep 20, 2023	 A0: Short Bio https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141004	due by 8pm
Wed Sep 20, 2023	 L3: Observations https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672914&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
Fri Sep 22, 2023	 L4: Interviews & Questionnaires https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672915&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
Mon Sep 25, 2023	 L3 + L4 Quiz https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1140997	due by 4pm
Mon Sep 25, 2023	 L3: In-Class Activity https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141017	due by 4pm
Mon Sep 25, 2023	 L4: In-Class Activity Copy https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141018	due by 4pm
Mon Sep 25, 2023	 A0: Team Information https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141006	due by 8pm
Wed Sep 27, 2023	 L5: Job Stories, Experience Maps, Requirements https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672916&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
Fri Sep 29, 2023	 L6: Group Projects and Presenting Findings https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672903&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
Mon Oct 2, 2023	 L5 + L6 Quiz https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141003	due by 4pm
Mon Oct 2, 2023	 L5: In-Class Activity https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141019	due by 4pm
Mon Oct 2, 2023	 A0: Team Charter https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141005	due by 8pm

Date	Details	Due
	 A1: Project Timeline https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141008	due by 8pm
	 S1: Group Presentation https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141026	due by 12pm
Wed Oct 4, 2023	 Studio 1: Presentations on Formative Studies https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672904&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
Fri Oct 6, 2023	 S1: Critique https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141025	due by 4pm
Wed Oct 11, 2023	 Open Session https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672905&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
Mon Oct 16, 2023	 A1: Formative Studies https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141007	due by 4pm
	 A1: Anonymous Peer-Review Form https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141001	due by 8pm
Wed Oct 18, 2023	 L7 - Ideation & Prototyping https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672906&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
Fri Oct 20, 2023	 L8 - Think Aloud & Heuristic Evaluation https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672907&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
Mon Oct 23, 2023	 L7 + L8 Quiz https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1140996	due by 4pm
	 L7: In-Class Activity https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141020	due by 4pm
	 L8: In-Class Activity https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141021	due by 4pm

Date	Details	Due
	 A2: Project Timeline https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141010	due by 8pm
	 S2: Group Presentation https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141028	due by 12pm
Wed Oct 25, 2023	 Studio 2: Studio Presentations & Critiques https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672908&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
Fri Oct 27, 2023	 Open Session https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672909&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
	 S2: Critique https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141027	due by 6pm
Tue Oct 31, 2023	 Paper Prototype: Evaluation Materials https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141023	due by 8pm
Wed Nov 1, 2023	 Expert Evaluations of Paper Prototypes in Studio https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672901&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm
	 Paper Prototype Evaluation: Participation & Peer-Review Form https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141024	due by 8pm
Mon Nov 13, 2023	 A2: Anonymous Peer-Review Form https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141000	due by 8pm
	 A2: Design Concepts and Prototypes https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141009	due by 8pm
Wed Nov 15, 2023	 L9 - High-Fidelity Prototyping & Usability Testing https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672910&include_contexts=course_315071	3pm to 5pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Nov 17, 2023	 L10 - Recap & Guest Speaker (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672911&include_contexts=course_315071)	3pm to 5pm
	 L9 + L10 Quiz (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1140995)	due by 4pm
Mon Nov 20, 2023	 L9: In-Class Activity (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141022)	due by 4pm
	 A3: Project Timeline (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141012)	due by 8pm
	 A4: Project Timeline (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141014)	due by 8pm
	 S3: Group Presentation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141030)	due by 12pm
Wed Nov 22, 2023	 Studio 3 - Studio Presentations & Critiques (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672912&include_contexts=course_315071)	3pm to 5pm
Fri Nov 24, 2023	 S3: Critique (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141029)	due by 4pm
Wed Nov 29, 2023	 Open Session (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672917&include_contexts=course_315071)	3pm to 5pm
	 A4: Presentation and Demo of High-Fidelity Prototype (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141013)	due by 12pm
Wed Dec 6, 2023	 Final Project Presentations (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=672900&include_contexts=course_315071)	3pm to 5pm
	 A4: Anonymous Peer-Review Form (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141002)	due by 8pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Dec 7, 2023	 A3: Anonymous Peer-Review Form (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1140999)	due by 8pm
	 A3: High-Fidelity Prototype and Summative Evaluation (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315071/assignments/1141011)	due by 8pm