I 320U Virtual Envrionments and Immersive Technology

UNIQUE NUMBER: 27485

Spring 2024

Class Meets: 3:30pm- 5:00pm, Tues/Thurs

"Welcome to Introduction to Virtual Environments and Immersive Technology! I am Dr. Jakki Bailey, a faculty member in the School of Information. My research and courses focus on people's experiences of immersive and extended reality technology like virtual reality and what that means across the lifespan (from children to adults). I look forward to working with you this semester!"

Instructor: Jakki Bailey, PhD (Dr. Bailey, Professor Bailey)

Pronouns: she/her

COURSE DESCRIPTION

UNIVERSITY CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examine social and psychological experiences of virtual environments and immersive technologies, such as in virtual reality and augmented reality. Through the course students will learn about the immersive technology and the research behind people's experiences of virtual environments.

PRE-REQUISITES FOR THE COURSE

Informatics 310U

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand the technological features of virtual environments and immersive technology
2. Identify how users experience different elements and aspects of virtual environments and immersive technology
3. Identify how to measure users' experience of virtual environments and immersive technology
4. Develop skills related to designing and building virtual environments for immersive technology
5. Develop interpersonal communication skills and collaborative work skills

HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

TEACHING MODALITY INFORMATION

In Person. Class will primarily meet in person but in some instances will include online meetings such as using Zoom and/or online virtual environments. Other than normal emergency accomodations, there is no alternative to in-person attendance. In addition, online class time will not be recorded.

COMMUNICATION

The course Canvas site can be found at utexas.instructure.com. Please email me through Canvas. You are responsible for ensuring that the primary email address you have recorded with the university is the one you will check for course communications because that is the email address that Canvas uses. I aim to respond to your emails witin 48-hours. However, if I miss your message please don't hesitate to send another message In addition, I will not be cheking emails over the weekend.

ASKING FOR HELP

If you have questions or would like to meet with me outside of class time, the best way to reach me is to come to my office hours. You can drop by or sign up online to guarantee a spot (Check Canvas and my link for the up to date times and days).

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

For a list of important university policies and helpful resources that you may need as you engage with and navigate your courses and the university, see the University Policies and Resources Students Canvas page. The page includes the language of the University Honor Code, Title IX legal requirements for Texas employees, and information about how to receive support through the office of Disability & Access.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All relevant class information will be posted on the course website on Canvas. This includes the most recent syllabus, PDFs of the weekly readings, and any relevant links. Lectures will cover the themes related to the readings as well as material not covered in the readings. The course calendar and readings are subject to change. You will need a laptop for in class work. According to the class schedule, students will also need access to a computer with the appropriate software to be used outside of class time (resources are available at the iSchool)

SHARING OF COURSE MATERIALS IS PROHIBITED

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class without my explicit, my written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials may facilitate cheating. The University is aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#) in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in initiation of the student conduct process and include charge(s) for academic misconduct, potentially resulting in sanctions, including a grade impact.

REQUIRED DEVICES

To be successful in the course, students need access to a laptop computer that can run the Zoom application and Unity software. In addition, students need access to a phone or tablet with a camera and that can run simple XR applications

CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLASS RECORDINGS

When applicabe, class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

GETTING HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY

Students needing help with technology in this course should contact the [ITS Service Desk](#).

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Class attendance Students are expected to attend all class sessions, to arrive on time and stay for the duration of class. Attendance will be taken during each class period in person and online, and there is a grade deduction in class participation for unexcused absences. Excessive tardiness may be considered as an unexcused absence except in situations following university policy.

Class participation All students are expected to participate in discussions/ activities in class and on the course website.   Participation is crucial and the quality of your involvement contributes to your success and the success of the class by creating a collaborative learning environment.

- Readings are to be completed before class.
- Successful participation in class are evidence during discussion that you have done the readings, including a willingness and ability to summarize, synthesize and evaluate.
- Completing and submitting materials related to class activities

Behavior expectations To foster open discussion, students are asked to be tolerant and considerate of others' viewpoints. In addition, students are expected to actively pay attention to others during lecture, class discussion, and activities. While laptops and phones will be used in class, inattentive or discourteous behavior will be noticed and penalized. Before the start of each class, silence all devices such as cellphones, tablets, and computers.

ACCOMODATIONS

Students will need to provide documentation to the Dean of Student's Office so the most appropriate accommodations can be determined.

CONTENT WARNING

Our classroom provides an open space for the critical and orderly exchange of ideas through discussion. Some readings and other content in this course will include topics and comments that some students may find offensive and/or traumatizing. I'll aim to forewarn students about potentially disturbing content and I ask all students to help to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The creation of artificial intelligence tools for widespread use is an exciting innovation. These tools have both appropriate and inappropriate uses in classwork.

The use of artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT) in this class shall be permitted on a limited basis. You will be informed as to the assignments for which AI may be utilized. You are also welcome to seek my prior-approval to use AI writing tools on any assignment. In either instance, AI writing tools should be used with caution and proper citation, as the use of AI should be properly attributed. Using AI writing tools without my permission or authorization, or failing to properly cite AI even where permitted, shall constitute a violation of UT Austin's Institutional Rules on academic integrity.

If you are considering the use of AI writing tools but are unsure if you are allowed or the extent to which they may be utilized appropriately, please ask.

ASSIGNMENTS

The following table represents how you will demonstrate your learning and how we will assess the degree to which you have done so.

Assignments	Percent of Total Grade
1. Class Participation	20
2. Quizzes	60
5. XR Application Idea	20

Class participation

 All students are expected to participate in discussions/ activities in class and on the course website.

- Weekly readings are to be completed before class.
- Successful participation in class are evidence during discussion that you have done the readings, including a willingness and ability to summarize, synthesize and evaluate.
- Completing and submitting materials related to class activities

Quizzes

Quizzes will include information from course readings, lectures, and in-class activities

XR Application Idea

In collaborative groups students formulate an idea for an XR application (more details on Canvas).

LATE WORK AND MAKING UP MISSED WORK

Time-bank options for individual assignments

Sometimes we have bad days, bad weeks, and bad semesters. In an effort to accommodate any unexpected, unfortunate personal crisis, I have built "time banks" into our course. You do not have to utilize this policy, but if you find yourself struggling with unexpected personal events, I encourage you to e-mail me as soon as possible to notify me that you are using our grace policy. You may use this policy one of two ways (please choose, and let me know):

- You may have a two-day grace period for one assignment ***OR***
- You may have 2 one-day extensions for two different assignments.

ABSENCES

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, to arrive on time and stay for the duration of class.
Attendance will be taken during each class period in person and online.

Absences will only be excused in situations following University policy (i.e., illness, religious holy days, participation in University activities at the request of university authorities, and compelling absences beyond your control) with proper documentation and timely notification (prior to class for non-emergencies).
By UT Austin policy, *you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior* to the date of observance of a religious holy day. Excessive tardiness may be considered as an unexcused absence except in situations following university policy.

If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project due to ilness, or to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

By [UT Austin policy](), you must notify me of your pending absence for a religious holy day as far in advance as possible of the date of observance. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

+/- GRADING POLICY

+/- grades will be used for the final class grade.

GRADE BREAKS

Grade	Cutoff
A	94%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	84%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	74%
C-	70%
D+	67%
D	64%
D-	60%
F	<60%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY EXPECTATIONS

Students who violate University rules on academic misconduct are subject to the student conduct process. A student found responsible for academic misconduct may be assigned both a status sanction and a grade impact for the course. The grade impact could range from a zero on the assignment in question up to a failing grade in the course. A status sanction can include a written warning, probation, deferred suspension or dismissal from the University. To learn more about academic integrity standards, tips for avoiding a potential academic misconduct violation, and the overall conduct process, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct.

[It is strongly recommended that you outline any individual expectations for assignment completion- including parameters around group work, authorized resources, citation requirements, etc. in the assignment directions. Clear and detailed expectations not only reduce the likelihood of a possible violation, but they also aid the Student Conduct team in holding students accountable that fail to adhere to the assignment directions.]

COURSE OUTLINE

All instructions, assignments, readings, rubrics and essential information will be on the Canvas website at utexas.instructure.com. Check Canvas regularly. **Changes** to the schedule may be made at my discretion if circumstances require. I will announce any such changes in class and will also communicate them via a Canvas announcement. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced, and I will do my best to ensure that you are notified of changes with as much advance notice as possible.

Week	Date	Day	Class Topic	Out of Class Activities	Assignments Due
1	1/16/24	Tues	Course Introduction		
	1/18/24	Thur	Defining XR and Virtual Environments		
2	1/23/24	Tues	Defining XR and Virtual Environments	XR Diary Activity	
	1/25/24	Thur	Defining XR and Virtual Environments		XR Diary Entry due
3	1/30/24	Tues	Defining XR and Virtual Environments	XR Diary Activity	
	2/1/22	Thur	Defining XR and Virtual Environments		XR Diary Entry due
4	2/6/24	Tues	Defining XR and Virtual Environments	XR Diary Activity	
	2/8/24	Thur	Defining XR and Virtual Environments		XR Diary Entry due
5	2/13/24	Tues	Quiz		
	2/15/24	Thur	Designing Virtual Envrionments for XR		
6	2/20/24	Tues	Designing Virtual Envrionments for XR	XR Diary Activity	
	2/22/24	Thur	Designing Virtual Envrionments for XR		XR Diary Entry due
7	2/27/24	Tues	Designing Virtual Envrionments for XR	XR Diary Activity	
	2/29/24	Thur	Designing Virtual Envrionments for XR		XR Diary Entry due
8	3/5/24	Tues	Quiz		
	3/7/24	Thur	Measuring User Experience in XR	XR Diary Activity	

Week	Date	Day	Class Topic	Out of Class Activities	Assignments Due
9	3/12/24	Tues	Spring Break		
	3/14/24	Thur	Spring Break		
10	3/19/24	Tues	Measuring User Experience in XR		XR Diary Entry due
	3/21/24	Thur	Measuring User Experience in XR		
11	3/26/24	Tues	Measuring User Experience in XR		
	3/28/24	Thur	Quiz		
12	4/2/24	Tues	Building XR Exepriences		
	4/4/24	Thur	Building XR Exepriences	Set up WebGL Github site	
13	4/9/24	Tues	Building XR Exepriences		Built environment due in WebGL
	4/11/24	Thur	Building XR Exepriences		
14	4/16/24	Tues	Building XR Exepriences		"User" placed in world due in WebGL
	4/18/24	Thur	Building XR Exepriences		
15	4/23/24	Tues	XR Idea Presentations		Complete WebGL due
	4/25/24	Thur	XR Idea Presentations and Course Conclusions		

COUNSELING AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER (CMHC)

Students who are struggling for any reason and who believe that it might impact their performance in the course are urged to reach out to Bryce Moffett if they feel comfortable. This will allow her to provide any resources or accommodations that she can. If immediate mental health assistance is needed, call the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) at 512-471-3515 or you may also contact Bryce Moffett, LCSW (iSchool CARE counselor) at 512-232-4449. Bryce's office is located in FAC18S and she holds drop in Office Hours on Wednesday from 2-3pm. For urgent mental health concerns, please contact the CMHC 24/7 Crisis Line at 512-471-2255.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

CARRYING OF HANDGUNS ON CAMPUS

Students in this class should be aware of the following university policies related to Texas' Open Carry Law:

- Students in this class who hold a license to carry are asked to [review the university policy regarding campus carry](#).
- Individuals who hold a license to carry are eligible to carry a concealed handgun on campus, including in most outdoor areas, buildings and spaces that are accessible to the public, and in classrooms.
- It is the responsibility of concealed-carry license holders to carry their handguns on or about their person at all times while on campus. Open carry is NOT permitted, meaning that a license holder may not carry a partially or wholly visible handgun on campus premises or on any university driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.