ICT 315-001: Human Relations and Technology  
T/Th 11:00-12:15  
302 LCLI

Instructor: Dr. Jessalyn Vallade  
Office Address: 329 Lucille Little Library  
Email: jessalyn.vallade@uky.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00am-11:00am OR by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
With so many technologies in use today, information can often fail to effectively reach those who need it. In this course, students will focus on the importance of taking a human-centered approach to best identify and meet individuals’ and groups’ information needs. Human Relations and Technology focuses on engaging critical thinking skills to effectively tailor and disseminate information to people both within and outside of the IT industry. Through analysis and design, students will be asked to address multiple real-world situations with a specific focus on connecting to humans through (and often in spite of) technology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. Identify, analyze, and adapt to various information needs.  
2. Identify and explain problematic uses of technology and/or breakdowns in information.  
3. Develop human-centered and technology-based solutions.  
4. Effectively present technology-based information using multiple forms of media.

Required Materials  
All assigned reading will be provided for students in Canvas or distributed in class.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Participation  
Much of this class will be devoted to discussion, analysis, and practice engaging in competent communication with your instructor and your peers; as such, it is vital that you attend class regularly. There is no textbook for this course, and though you will be expected to complete assigned reading throughout the semester, the majority of content will be presented in class. Additionally, the focus of this course is on application, which will require your active participation during class time. This is a baseline expectation.

Each student is allowed 2 unexcused absences without penalty. Beyond these, each unexcused absence will result in a 1% point deduction from your final grade (i.e., 8 points).

If you are absent on a day when an assignment is due, you will be allowed to hand in or make up that work only if the absence is officially excused. You will be asked to provide official written documentation for excused absences within one week of the absence. If you do not turn in the
written documentation on time, the absence will be counted as unexcused. Please see the
definition of excused absences in the next section.

If you know ahead of time that you will be absent from class without an excused absence, please
discuss this with your instructor and turn in any assignments ahead of time. Excuses for
university-sponsored activities must be made prior to such absences. No make-up work is
available for in-class exercises or workshops unless approved in advance by your
instructor.

Civility and Professionalism
Students must learn to meet the standards of professional behavior and treat each other with
respect. Critical inquiry is important, but attacking other persons, verbally or otherwise, is not
accepted. Students must learn to receive and act on constructive criticism, be reliable and
responsible, polite and respectable of others, and focus on producing above quality work.

Late/Make-up Work
You will receive ZERO points for assignments submitted after the scheduled due date. There are
no make-up assignments, no extensions, and no partial credit without an official excuse or
extenuating circumstances. If there are extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from
completing course work, then you are expected to negotiate when the make-up work is due with
your instructor, which may include earlier due dates or later due dates. “Extenuating
circumstances” will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Excused Absences
Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. Senate Rules
5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b)
ilness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, (e)
interviews for graduate/professional school or full-time employment post-graduation, and (f)
other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the
instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later
than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but
should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained
through the Ombud (859-257-3737,
http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php.

In situations where a student’s total EXCUSED absences exceed 1/5 (or 20%) of the class
periods scheduled for the semester, students are strongly encouraged to withdraw (take a “W”) from
the class as per university policy. If a student has excused absences in excess of one-fifth of
the class contact hours for that course, the student shall have the right to receive a ‘W’, or the
Instructor of Record may award an ‘I’ for the course if the student declines to receive a ‘W.’

Per Senate Rule 5.2.4.2, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are
responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week
following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

**Verification of Absences**

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2* states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

**Regarding University Health Services Health Notes:**

1. *Tier 1* excuses are not accepted as a valid excused absence. You may use your freebie coupons instead.
2. *Tier 2* excuses are accepted as a valid excused absence. However, the instructor reserves the right to request additional or alternative documentation if the instructor, under the circumstances, has concerns about the validity of the Tier 2 documentation.
3. *Tier 3* excuses are always accepted as a valid excused absence. The UHS restricts students from attending class with Tier 3 excuses

**Academic Integrity**

Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: [http://www.uky.edu/Ombud](http://www.uky.edu/Ombud). A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

*Senate Rules 6.3.1* (see [http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/](http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/) for the current set of *Senate Rules*) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.
Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

Accommodations Due to Disability
If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is http://www.uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter.

Military Members and Veterans
We recognize the complexities of being a member of the military community and also a student. If you are a member of the military or a military veteran or dependent, please inform your instructor if you are in need of special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, mandatory training exercises, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran related developments can complicate your academic life. If you are aware of a complication, we will work with you and put you in contact with university staff members who are trained to assist you. Please contact the Coordinator of the University of Kentucky Veterans Resource Center at 859-257-1148 for additional assistance. Visit http://www.uky.edu/veterans for more available resources.

Non-Discrimination Statement
The University of Kentucky faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination policy.

Discrimination is prohibited at UK. If you experience an incident of discrimination we encourage you to report it to Institutional Equity & Equal Opportunity (IEEO) Office, 13 Main Building, (859) 257-8927.
**Acts of Sex- and Gender-Based Discrimination or Interpersonal Violence**
If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination or interpersonal violence, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member or TA/RA/GA, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University these individuals MUST report any acts of violence (including verbal bullying and sexual harassment) to the University's Title IX Coordinator in the IEEO Office. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, the Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) program (Frazee Hall – Lower Level; [http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/VIPCenter](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/VIPCenter)), the Counseling Center (106 Frazee Hall, [http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Counseling/](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Counseling/)), and the University Health Services (http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/uhs/student-health/) are confidential resources on campus.

**E-mail Policy**
Throughout the semester, you will receive e-mails from me with updates and reminders. You are expected to regularly check Canvas, as well as your official UKY e-mail address – if information is sent to you via email and you do not read it in time to adjust accordingly, this is not the fault of your instructor.

**Email is the best and preferred way to reach me.** I will be checking it frequently throughout the business day (i.e., Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm). I will not be on email 24/7 and will not expect you to be, either! Please send all email correspondence to the email address provided above, and put ICT 315 in the subject line each time. *Please allow 24 hours for a response to your e-mail.* If you have not heard back within 24 hours, send a polite and professional follow-up email.

Additionally, use your emails as an opportunity to practice professional digital communication. All emails must include an appropriate greeting (e.g., “Hello, Dr. Vallade,” “Hi, Dr. V,” etc.), a message including full sentences, professional language, correct spelling, grammar, and capitalization, and an appropriate closing. If your email does not include these components, I may choose not to respond. Writing emails to your friends/family can be informal, but when you are writing emails to your instructors, professors and potential employers, they should be well written with as few mistakes as possible. Additionally, *if you email me with a question that could be easily answered by checking our Canvas site or syllabus, I may choose not to respond.*

**Canvas**
Things may come up or change during the semester, which means that the weekly schedule may change as well. Any changes will be posted as an Announcement in Canvas and discussed in class. You will be responsible for checking the online syllabus and schedule before beginning your homework for each week for any changes or updates. All assignments and grading rubrics will be posted in Canvas.

All of your work in this class must be submitted in Canvas, unless otherwise instructed. You are responsible for keeping back-up (I recommend several) copies of all your work since electronic texts can be lost. The assignment should be attached in a word file (.doc or .docx only), unless otherwise instructed. You **MUST** confirm that the assignment was submitted and that it will open
through the Canvas application. Any file that is attached, but unable to be opened, will be treated as if it were not submitted. All assignments are due by the time specified in Canvas.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS
See below for a general overview of course assignments. More detailed information on the requirements and assessment for each assignment will be provided in Canvas and discussed in class as they become relevant.

Homework & In-Class Activities (100 points)
This class is heavily based in hands-on participation and discussion. Throughout the semester, you will be expected to read each week’s articles carefully and thoughtfully and prepare homework assignments to bring to class. These assignments will form the foundation of in-class activities and discussions, in which you are expected to fully engage. There are unlikely to be any days that will consist solely of lecture – you will be active participants!

Homework and in-class assignments are not all planned ahead of time and will be determined as needed throughout the semester; therefore, they may not add up to exactly 100 points. At the end of the semester, your percentage of homework grades will be calculated, and that percentage will be applied for your final score (e.g., if we complete 125 points of participation activities, and you get 105/125 points, your final grade would be 84. If we complete 80 points of participation activities, and you get 75/80 points, your final grade would be 93.75).

Training Program (100 points)
Individually, each student will identify a technology about which to train his/her classmates. This project will proceed in three stages. More information on the requirements of this project will be provided in Canvas.

Audience Analysis: First, students will need to design a brief survey to gain relevant knowledge about his/her audience. This information will then need to be analyzed and used as a foundation upon which to develop a training session/instructional video.
15 points

Training Session: Second, each student will develop a training program, including any necessary supplemental materials, on how and why to use this chosen technology.
50 points

Program Assessment: Finally, students will develop a brief assessment (i.e., survey, 15 points) to determine the effectiveness of his/her training session, which classmates will complete. Students will analyze this assessment information in a summary report of their training program (20 points). 35 points

Final Project (300 points)
In small groups, students will identify problematic technology use or an information gap and create a human-centered solution to the problem by proposing either a brand-new technology or a revision/new use of existing technology. This project will proceed in multiple steps over the course of the semester.
**Needs Assessment/Project Proposal:** The initial step in this process involves identifying both (a) the problem, with sufficient background and explanation, and (b) the information needs of their target individuals or group(s). Using primary and secondary research and a human-centered approach, students will need to articulate a strong justification for their proposed solution. **100 points**

**Storyboard:** Once students have refined their solutions, they will create a storyboard of what their solution will look like, keeping in mind the target groups and their information needs, as well as principles of effective design and information clarity. **50 points**

**White Paper:** At the end of the semester, each group will submit a short 2-3 page white paper, explaining the need for and use of their technology-based solution to a general audience. **50 points**

**Final Project Digital Pitch & Presentation:** At the end of the semester, each group will create a digital project (e.g., video or website/page) that could be used as a marketing tool for their technology-based solution and will present it to the class. **100 points**

**Group Member Evaluation (50 points)**
At the end of the semester, you will be asked to provide a group dynamics assessment of each of your group members and yourself. Your grade will be calculated based on how well you worked with your group in terms of effort, productivity, and competent communication.

**Consumer Feedback (100 points)**
As peers, you bring different experiences and perspectives to this class. Throughout the semester, you will be asked to engage in discussion with and provide feedback to your instructor and your peers. For example, you will provide feedback for all peers’ training sessions. And think about how helpful it would be to “pilot test” an app you develop for your final project with potential consumers (e.g., individuals from diverse backgrounds) – i.e., your classmates.

**TOTAL: 650 points**

**GRADING**

**Grading Policy**
I do not GIVE grades. Instead, you EARN grades. I do not believe in giving grades that are not earned. I do not grade effort; I grade product. Therefore, do not ask me to bump a grade, to give you an extra opportunity to earn points, or to change a grade. I give partial credit when possible and use standard mathematical rounding rules. For example, if you earn a 79.4%, then your grade is a 79%. If you earn a 79.5%, then your grade is an 80%. This is non-negotiable.

Additionally, I operate with the 24/7 rule. This means that, once you receive a graded assignment back, you must wait at least 24 hours to discuss it with me. I am more than happy to discuss grades with you, but ask that you take the time to thoroughly review the feedback provided beforehand and carefully compare your work with the assignment requirements and grading rubric. You must also come and talk to me within one week (7 days) of receiving the grade.
that one-week period has passed, the grade will not be changed under any circumstances. *Please note: when you come to discuss a grade, make sure you have prepared a thoughtful justification for why you deserve a different grade than you received.*

**Please NOTE:** I absolutely CANNOT legally discuss grades via email. If you have questions or issues related to a grade, you MUST come and talk to me in my office to discuss your grade in person.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework/In-Class Activities</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15.38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Program: Audience Analysis</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Program</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Program Assessment &amp; Summary</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5.38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needs Assessment/Project Proposal</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15.38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storyboard</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project Digital Pitch &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15.38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Member Evaluation</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumer Feedback</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15.38%</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>650</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Achievement Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>585-650</td>
<td>A</td>
<td><em>Exceptional</em></td>
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<td>80-89%</td>
<td>520-584</td>
<td>B</td>
<td><em>High</em></td>
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<td>70-79%</td>
<td>455-519</td>
<td>C</td>
<td><em>Average</em></td>
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<td>60-69%</td>
<td>390-454</td>
<td>D</td>
<td><em>Below Average</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>0-389</td>
<td>E</td>
<td><em>Failing</em></td>
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**Mid-term Grade:** Mid-term grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established in the Academic Calendar ([http://www.uky.edu/Registrar/AcademicCalendar.htm](http://www.uky.edu/Registrar/AcademicCalendar.htm))
**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**
*This schedule is tentative and subject to change. All readings will be provided in Canvas Modules.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Th 1/16</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Course</strong> Information &amp; Interaction Goals</td>
<td>• Sonmez (2015)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Strauss (2017)</td>
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<td>• <strong>WATCH: Connected, but Alone?</strong></td>
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<td>T 1/21</td>
<td><strong>Considering the Stakeholder: A Human-Centered Approach</strong></td>
<td>• Manney (2015)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Terry &amp; Cain (2016)</td>
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<td>• Saarikivi (2017)</td>
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<td>• McStay (2018): Ch. 1</td>
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<td>• McStay (2018): Ch. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th 1/23</td>
<td><strong>Considering the Stakeholder</strong> (cont.)</td>
<td>• Johnson et al. (2014)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Wood (2016) – pp. 229-235</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 1/28</td>
<td><strong>Technology and Focus</strong></td>
<td>• Gearhart et al. (2014)</td>
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<td>• Caplan (2018): Ch. 6</td>
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<td>Th 1/30</td>
<td><strong>Identifying Stakeholder Needs</strong></td>
<td>• Osman (2018)</td>
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<td>• Wood (2016) – pp. 91-96</td>
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<td>• Lakey &amp; Canary (2002)</td>
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<td>T 2/4</td>
<td><strong>Applying What We’ve Learned: A Case Study</strong> Learning Effective ICT Use</td>
<td>• Olvera (2015b)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Introduce Training Program Project</strong></td>
<td>• de Saxe (2014)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Brainstorming Session</strong></td>
<td>• de Saxe (2017)</td>
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<td>• Verint (2016)</td>
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<td>Th 2/6</td>
<td><strong>Information &amp; Assessment: Survey Design Workshop</strong></td>
<td>• TBA</td>
<td>Draft of Audience Analysis Survey</td>
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<td>T 2/11</td>
<td><strong>Information Dissemination: Principles of Training and Instruction</strong></td>
<td>• Klosowski (2014)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Sun (2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th 2/13</td>
<td><strong>Information Dissemination</strong> (cont.)</td>
<td>• TBA</td>
<td>Final Audience Analysis Survey</td>
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<td>T 2/18</td>
<td><strong>Audience Analysis Day</strong></td>
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<td>Th 2/20</td>
<td><strong>Consumer Feedback &amp; Training Workshop</strong></td>
<td>• Ukens (2007)</td>
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<td>T 2/25</td>
<td><strong>Training Sessions</strong></td>
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<td>Th 2/27</td>
<td><strong>Training Sessions</strong></td>
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<td>T 3/3</td>
<td><strong>Training Sessions</strong></td>
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<td>Th 3/5</td>
<td><strong>Training Sessions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>T 3/10</td>
<td><strong>Identifying &amp; Overcoming Challenges in Mediated Information Exchange</strong></td>
<td>• Beebe et al. (2017)</td>
<td>Training Assessment Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>• Verhagen et al. (2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>Th 3/12</td>
<td>Case Study Analysis &amp; Discussion</td>
<td>WATCH: How giant websites design for you (and a billion others too)</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 3/17</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>Final Project Group Preferences</td>
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<td>Th 3/19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| T 3/24 | Problem Identification | • Mocherman (2012)  
• Olvera (2016)  
• Caplan (2018): Ch. 1 |
| Th 3/26 | Problem Identification/In-Class Work Day | • TBA |
| T 3/31 | Problem Solving | • Baig et al. (2014)  
• “How to deliver consistently great customer self-service”  
• Olvera (2015a) |
| Th 4/2 | Problem Solving/In-Class Work Day | • TBA |
| T 4/7 | Project Meetings with Dr. V | Needs Assessment |
| Th 4/9 | Project Meetings with Dr. V | Group Work Time |
| T 4/14 | Principles of Effective Visual Design  
Universal Design | • TBA |
| Th 4/16 |  |  |
| T 4/21 | Writing White Papers  
Peer Project Feedback | • BZ Media (2014)  
• Tallent (2018) |
| Th 4/23 | Out of Class Work Day |  |
| T 4/28 | Final Project Presentations | White Papers |
| Th 4/30 | Final Project Presentations | Group Member Evaluations |
Selected Readings


How to deliver consistently great customer self-service: An interview with Greg Pal, Vice President, Nuance.


Klosowski, T. (2014). How to explain complex ideas (like tech) to those who don’t understand.


Mochem, A. (2012). The impact technology is having on the customer service experience.


Olvera, E. (2015b). Ready for a non-stop flight from agonizing to frictionless?


Ukens, L. (2007). How can we train you today? Experiential activities can liven up customer service training.


