

Capstone in App Development/Mobile News App Design

J363M – Unique ID: 08990

CS378 - Unique ID: 52455

Spring 2023

Class Style: In Person

Class Times: Tuesdays, 5:00pm-8:00pm

Classroom: DMC 3.208

Instructor: Jeff Linwood

Office hours: Available to schedule virtual meeting times with students outside of class

Email: jeff.linwood@austin.texas.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an advanced class in product design, software development, project management, and working together as a cross-functional team.

Students will work together in small teams to create a mobile application for iOS or Android devices, and then publish it in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Teams will consist of computer science majors and journalism students.

No knowledge of mobile application development is necessary for the class.

In addition to learning about software development, emphasis will be placed on coming up with ideas for applications, doing user research, prototyping those applications, and creating a design.

To help publicize their projects, each team will also create videos to be used as advertisements for the app.

Students will also write a tutorial about a technology topic as part of the class.

OBJECTIVES

Students who complete all of the work for this course will be familiar with how to create mobile applications. They will also understand how user research informs application design.

They will also have created and shipped their own product, working together as a cross-functional team.

In addition to product design and development, individual students will write a technology tutorial that they could potentially publish on the web.

STRUCTURE

The first phase of the class is team creation, idea formation, and building foundation skills.

The second phase of the class is mobile application design, user research, and iteration, along with specific tutorials for the skills students need to build their applications.

The subsequent phases of the class are to develop and build the application iteratively.

At the end of the class, each team will have submitted their application to the respective App Store, and there will be a final presentation to a panel of judges from industry and from the University.

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments will be due at 11:59pm on the date for each assignment. Each assignment will have a grading rubric that explains how the project will be evaluated, found in Canvas.

Many assignments are team assignments, however some assignments are individual assignments.

There are no quizzes or tests in this class, as well as no final exam.

40% - Individual Effort

You will turn in diary-style updates on your own effort in helping your team achieve its goals. Your instructor will grade you based on the effort you put into these diary posts and on your effort in the class during that period (as observed by the instructor and as outlined by you). You will also review the work of your teammates. This is to help the instructor gauge the work of all the teammates.

30% - Product Development Process (Team)

As part of this grade, your team will also be required to turn in an initial elevator pitch for app ideas, a more detailed pitch for the app your team chooses to work on, sprint plans, end-of-sprint documentation/presentations and a final presentation. You'll also do QA assignments, a design assignment and more. Part of this grade will be whether your team submits your app to be published by April 9.

15% - Technical Tutorial Assignment (Individual)

You will select a technical subject related to something with your app development project, and then write a tutorial that another student in your major could follow. Part of this grade is the writing, and part of the grade will be based on reviewing another student's tutorial. The writing assignment is due on February 12, and the review is due on February 26.

10% - Videos (Team)

Throughout the course of the semester, you are required to create two videos. The videos should be related to your process and product and will be used during your final presentation. You will be graded on the content, quality and creativity of these videos. The first video is due on March 5, and the second video is due on April 16.

5% - Blogging (Team)

Your team is expected to post on medium.com, your own website or another publishing platform at least 5 times during the semester about your progress. If you hit all the requirements listed on the blog post assignments, this is a completion grade. This responsibility should be split among team members.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Each of the assignments will be due at 11:59pm Central (Austin Time).

Late work

All assignments turned in after deadline will be marked down 10 percentage points for the first 24 hours after the due time and then 10 percentage points for every 24 hours after that.

Grade scale

Grade	Percentage
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D	60-69

Attendance

Attendance is required for class, and will be recorded promptly at the beginning of class. The instructor has the right to ask for an official medical or university excuse. Because this class only meets weekly, attendance is very important. After missing two classes with unexcused absences, your grade will be dropped five percentage points for each additional unexcused absence. Please contact the instructor well in advance if you know you will not be able to attend class.

Contacting the instructor

The best way to contact the instructor is through Canvas, and the second best way is email. Students are also encouraged to help other students out with their software development questions.

Other important information

* Your grades and the submission of your evaluations will be handled through Canvas.

Important Safety Information

COVID-19 Update

While I will post information related to the contemporary situation on campus, you are encouraged to stay up-to-date on the latest news as related to the student experience.

<https://protect.utexas.edu/>

Safety

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs or Professors, call BCCAL (the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line): 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous. If something doesn't feel right – it probably isn't. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

Emergency Evacuation

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at:

www.utexas.edu/emergency

Title IX Reporting

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature occurs in our community, the university can:

Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.

Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.

Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies.

Beginning January 1, 2020, Texas Senate Bill 212 requires all employees of Texas universities, including faculty, report any information to the Title IX Office regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that is disclosed to them. Texas law requires that all employees who witness or receive any information of this type (including, but not limited to, writing assignments, class discussions, or one-on-one conversations) must be reported. I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you would like to speak with someone who can provide support or remedies without making an official report to the university, please email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit <http://www.titleix.utexas.edu/>, contact the Title IX Office via email at titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

Although graduate teaching and research assistants are not subject to Texas Senate Bill 212, they are still mandatory reporters under Federal Title IX laws and are required to report a wide range of behaviors we refer to as unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, including the types of conduct covered under Texas Senate Bill 212. The Title IX office has developed supportive ways to respond to a survivor and compiled campus resources to support survivors.

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University Policies

Academic Integrity

Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." Plagiarism is taken very seriously at UT. Therefore, if you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism

and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. You are responsible for understanding UT's Academic Honesty and the University Honor Code which can be found at the following web address: <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/standardsconduct.php>

Q Drop Policy

If you want to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information about Q drops in general, see: <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>. For

COVID-19 Updates

For the most up to date information on learning during COVID-19, including guidance about safety, cloth masks in classrooms, and classroom guidelines, see <https://protect.utexas.edu/learning/>.