

HCI Prof Prep & Practice | Fall 2024

HCI Professional Preparation + Practice (PPP)

CS/ID/LMC/PSYC 6753

Fall 2024

Instructor | Prof. Richard L. Henneman (rhenneman@gatech.edu)

TAs | Dhyan Gandhi (dgandhi62@gatech.edu) | Aditya Raghavan (araghavan68@gatech.edu)

Schedule | Thursdays | 3:30 pm to 5:25 pm

Classroom | 300 Scheller College of Business + Other locations

Description

The MS-HCI seminar prepares you for career success. It includes hands-on activities and presentations led by HCI practitioners, faculty, and fellow students that help you make career choices and develop job skills relevant to an HCI professional's future success. The seminar also strives to create community among the MS-HCI Program's students.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have:

- A refined vision of your career goals and aspirations
- Improved career-relevant skills such as public speaking, teamwork, resume and portfolio development, and interviewing
- A foundation of mutual respect and support with your peers enrolled in the Program.

Part of being a professional involves supporting your team members and your organization. One of the ways the MS-HCI Program has developed such a strong reputation is by fostering a culture of mutual respect and support. Accordingly, one of the emphases in 6753 is helping one another and helping the MS-HCI program overall.

Course Schedule

The course schedule is [Class Schedule | CS/ID/LMC/PSYC 6753 PPP | Fall 2024](#).

Details are subject to change.

Course Requirements

This one-credit seminar is graded as follows:

- 50%: Homework
- 50%: Class attendance and participation
- 0-1: Giving Back

Homework

Homework assignments will be one of two types. First, you will complete a short survey about each weekly seminar. These surveys are due at **5:30 PM on the Monday following each class**. Links to the surveys will be on Canvas but are completed via Qualtrics. Second, you will submit various career-related artifacts, e.g., your resume, before the resume review session.

You will receive full credit (1 point) if your assignment is submitted on time, i.e., before 5:30 p.m. on the Monday following each class. You will receive half credit (.5 point) if your assignment is late but submitted before the start of the next class.

Class attendance

Class attendance is mandatory and will be self-reported on the weekly survey. We will, however, keep an eye on attendance. If it appears to be dropping off, I reserve the right to start recording it during class.

Each class attended contributes 1 point to your grade. Absences should be reported at least 24 hours before the start of the class via the short Qualtrics survey that can be found in Homework 0. If you have any questions about your absences, speak to one of the TAs.

The following chart summarizes how attendance credit will be assigned:

If you report your absence:	1st Absence	2nd Absence	3rd or more Absence
At least 24 hours before the start of class	1 point	.5 point	0 points
Less than 24 hours before the start of class	1 point	.25 points	0 points
Never or after the start of class	1 point	0 points	0 points

The course is being taught in person, i.e., you should be physically present during the session. Much of the value of the seminar comes from attending and participating – being engaged. Many of the classes will include a hands-on component (often in small groups), so it will be essential to be physically present.

There are, however, a few exceptions:

- Some sessions may be offered only remotely. These will be announced in advance via Canvas and Slack. You are still required to participate in these classes.
- If you are sick, please do not come to class. Students are allowed one unexcused absence during the semester, e.g., for illness, a job interview, or for any reason.

You should still complete each week's survey even if you miss a class (for any reason).

>>NO LATE SURVEYS OR OTHER ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.<<

Giving Back

One of the strengths of the MS-HCI Program is the sense of community that exists among its students. A community that comprises people from very different backgrounds does not happen by accident. Community members work together, help each other out, and undertake activities to ensure the strength of the community in the future.

An essential element of PPP, “giving back,” encourages community participation. Your grade in 6753 will be influenced by the contributions you make. If you do nothing to give back, your grade will be lowered by one full letter grade. So, if you earn an A but do not give back, you will receive a B for the semester.

Some of the opportunities to give back include:

- Organizing and/or participating in MS-HCI Interest Groups, i.e., groups of students who regularly discuss various topics of interest, e.g., Accessibility, Portfolio Development, Social Media, Anti-Racist Strategies in HCI Design, Public Speaking, etc.
- Meeting with prospective MS-HCI students
- Organizing an MS-HCI social event or game night
- Creating and teaching mini-courses on a variety of topics
- Helping with MS-HCI “admitted students recruiting day” in the spring
- Helping to plan the Mock Interview Event
- Weekly tidying of the MS-HCI Studio and Lounge
- Organizing the MS-HCI Storage Closet

You will be allowed to commit to a Giving Back activity in the initial homework assignment for this class.

Grading

Each assignment and class attended is worth 1 point. Points are converted to a percent of the total possible for each category and then normalized for the relative contribution of each category to the whole. For example, an MS-HCI student attended 12 of 14 possible class sessions, completed all surveys, and completed 7 of 8 homework assignments. Note that the student will receive credit for attending 13 sessions because one absence can be excused. The student's grade would be:

Attendance $(13/14) * .50 = .464$

Assignments $(14 + 7)/(14+8) * .50 = .477$

The **total grade** would be $.428 + .477 = .941$ or 94.1%

The standard percent-to-letter conversion for graduate courses will be applied, such that 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, and less than 60% = F. I round borderline grades up, i.e., an 89.1 would be given an A.

Assuming the student reported giving back to the program, the student would receive an A. The final grade would be a B if the student did not give back.

Remember that since 6753 is a core MS-HCI class, you must earn at least a B in this course. Keep on top of your grade! If you see a potential problem, talk with me as soon as possible.

Communication:

We will use **Canvas** for official course communications and as the course assignments and deliverables repository. Ensure you have Canvas course Announcements automatically sent to you (Account > Notifications > Announcement) so you do not miss anything.

We will make use of Microsoft Teams (mostly) for those class sessions that will be offered remotely.

We will use **Slack** for non-official course communications. Make sure you are a member of **#6753_fall_2024** in Slack. I prefer you use Slack instead of e-mail to communicate directly with me.

If you have any questions about grading or attendance, contact one of the TAs.

If you want to talk to me in person, please contact me at my office, on Slack, or via e-mail. I'll be happy to talk if I am free, although I may ask if we can find another time. If you don't hear from me within a day, try again; you likely got buried in many other Slack or e-mail messages.

The course content, recordings, and materials I provide are for your use only and cannot be further disseminated. Electronic video/audio recordings initiated by students are prohibited unless I grant explicit permission.

MS-HCI Program Learning Context

We are dedicated to fostering and maintaining an anti-discriminatory intellectual environment. We aim to understand and work against ableism, ageism, racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia, while celebrating and amplifying diversity.

We are responsible for facilitating learning experiences that affirm and validate cultural and individual differences, encouraging personal accountability and resilience, and promoting positive academic and mental health outcomes.

Accommodations Policy

If you are a student with a disability and need academic accommodations, please contact Georgia Tech Disability Services (404-894-2563; 404-894-1664). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. They will then contact me with instructions.

A Special Note Related to Health and Safety

I encourage all students to be fully vaccinated, including for flu and COVID-19. If you are ill, please do not come to class. It is your choice to wear a mask to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

CS 6753: HCI Professional Preparation and Practice Class Schedule | Fall 2024

Week	Date	Topics	Location
1	8.22.2024	Getting to Know You Program Highlights + Upcoming Events Research Program IPaT Resources -- Noah Posner MS-HCI Graduate Council Social Media Team	Scheller 300
2	8.29.2024	SCAVEPALOOZA! A campus-wide scavenger hunt	Check for starting point
3	9.5.2024	I Know What I Did Last Summer	Scheller 300
4	9.12.2024	The Great Resume Roundup. Yee-haw!	TSRB/Various
5	9.19.2024	The Panel of Alums Morgan Chin Meta Product Designer 2021 Kristin Lawson The Home Depot Staff UX Designer 2018 Sara Lin McKinsey Sr. UX Researcher 2022 Priyanka Mohindra AT&T Sr. UX Researcher 2021 Tyler Norman FanDuel UX Researcher 2023 Joyce Wu UPS UX Supervisor 2023	Scheller 300
6	9.26.2024	The Three Truths	Your choice

7	10.3.2024	4-Minute Madness MS-HCI Faculty Members present brief summaries of their research **First-year MS-HCI Students only	TSRB Auditorium
8	10.10.2024	Portfoli-Oh-Me-Oh-My!	TSRB Auditorium + TSRB Ballroom
9	10.17.2024	Public Speaking with Dad's Garage	TSRB Ballroom
10	10.24.2024	Teach-n-Learn I	Check for your location

A Panel of Practitioners | Microsoft

11	10.31.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swar Gujrania – Interaction Designer (MS-HCI graduate) • Jared Davis – Interaction Designer • Rebekah Wolf – Content Designer • Jagriti Kumar – Service Designer • Evelyn Kalafus-Mastenbrook – Design PM • Terry Ballard – Design Manager 	Scheller 300
12	11.7.2024	Interviewing Practicum (aka Mock Interview Day)	Gatherly.com
13	11.14.2024	Teach and Learn II	Scheller 300
14	11.21.2024	Last Day of Class TBD	Scheller 300