



KMD 1001F:

What is Interdisciplinary Knowledge Media Design?



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF INFORMATION
Knowledge Media Design Institute

Course Outline

Course Code: *KMD1001F*

Course Section:

Semester Offered: Fall 2011

Course Meeting Time: Thursdays 2 - 5pm

Course Location: Bissel 310

Credit Value: 0.5

Pre-requisites:

Registration in a participating department or special permission of from KMD CP.

Instructor(s)

Course Director: Professor Kostas Plataniotis

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Office Hours:

Blackboard: Lec 101

Teaching Assistant(s): Steve Szigeti

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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

All of us have heard the words “knowledge”, “media” and “design” used in various contexts. From the understanding that from data comes information, *knowledge* and wisdom, to understanding *media* as a message or *design* as a way of thinking, all of us bring to these words a range of personal, disciplinary and social ontologies. The aim of this course is for us to bridge our individual disciplinary experiences with knowledge media in order to think about designing more human-centric solutions to “wicked” challenges in Knowledge Media Design (KMD).

This course provides both an exposure to a board range of understandings and uses of knowledge media across disciplines and research projects, as well as gives students the opportunity to collaborate in a shared Knowledge Media Design project.

Goals and Learning Objectives

The primary course learning objective is to enable students to iteratively develop and improve their definitions and understandings of “knowledge media” and “design”, and explore linkages to their studies and practice. To this end guest speakers will visit to provide perspectives and help discuss key concepts, themes and perspectives in Knowledge Media Design. Another primary learning objective is to introduce students to design as a problem solving strategy; a way of thinking. To provide a core shared experience for KMD CP students.

The student should be able to apply relevant concepts, principles, and techniques to express information, arguments, and analyses accurately and with clarity, both orally and in writing.

Course Requirements

Students are required to attend lectures. Students are required to use APA or MLA citation formats for all writing. Students are required to find online readings using University of Toronto Library resources. Students are required to read all assigned readings and be prepared to discuss key issues from the readings in class.

Teaching Methods

In this course teaching will be performed through a variety of methods, including (but not limited to): lectures, audio/visual presentations and individual and group assignments. Instruction will be supplemented by required tutorials, multimedia presentations and class discussion based on readings and presented materials.

Assessment and Grading Policies

Late assignments will lose 3% per day. Assignments over a week late will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0. Assignments that do not meet minimum university expectations will not be accepted for marking. Attendance is required and participation will be based on how students interact in class and online and engage with the materials read and presented in class.

Grading Scheme

Assignment	Weight	Due Date	Type
Design Brief	15%	Oct. 6	Collaborative
Prototypes (I & II)	25%	Oct. 13 & Nov. 24	Collaborative
Paper	25%	Dec. 1	Individual
Project Portfolio	25%	Dec. 10	Collaborative
Participation	10%	On Going	Individual

Assignment Details:

1. Design Brief (15%)

Write a *Design Brief*. This document must include the project objectives, deliverables, milestones, technical requirements, limits and exclusions. All aspects of this document must be supported by research (see above) outlined in a separate section. Note that some aspects of this brief may require estimates (such as deliverables or milestones, or aspects of the project that extend beyond the scope of this course). Such estimates are fine, but they must be reasonable and be supported by research. More details are provided on the assignment instruction sheet.

2. Prototyping and Portfolio

The Design challenge will be broken down into a series of activities and deliverables throughout the term. Two central deliverables during the course will be a low fidelity and a high fidelity prototype of your concept or reply to the design challenge. Groups will present prototypes to the entire class for critique and will receive both student and instructor feedback for future iterations.

Prototype I (10%):

During the first class students will be divided into teams of three and introduced to the Design Challenge. In your groups you will work to brainstorm ideas of how to address the Design Challenge—the wilder the better. Your team will then present a low-fidelity prototype of your design concept on October 13 for critique.

Prototype II (15%):

Following the Prototype I critique the class will then be reorganized into teams of 5 based on diversity of skill sets. Each team will be asked to develop a concept (either from those presented or an original concept) for the second round of Prototyping. Projects will be critiqued on November 24th.

Project Portfolio (25%)

Each project team is to submit a project portfolio at the end of term for evaluation.

The portfolio is to include:

- ⤴ Prototypes (or Images of the prototypes/presentations)
- ⤴ Any / All presentation materials (eg. Slides, handouts, etc.)
- ⤴ Team Wikki should include (at the least):
 - design statement (What do you hope to do?)
 - design process / documentation (What did you actually do?)
 - reflections on the processes (What you would do the same or differently next time?)
- ⤴ **Project Poster**

Paper (25%)

This course provides a shared core experience but is also designed to give you an opportunity to pursue your interests. The paper is your opportunity to explore one of the 'ontology' of some aspect of KMD (listed below) as relate it to your area of work/research.

Choose from among the following concepts:

- ⤴ **Knowledge media**
- ⤴ **Design**
- ⤴ **Communication**
- ⤴ **Human-Centred Design**
- ⤴ **Social Networks**
- ⤴ **Knowledge Management**

Your paper should be based on reputable sources, thesis driven 8 – 10 pages using a standardized academic format and citation practices (preferably MLA or APA).

Weekly Class Schedule

Week 1 | September 15

Lecturer: Joseph Ferenbok

Topic: What is Design? / Design Challenge

Topic: What is KMDI?

Guest Lecturer: Ron Baecker, KMDI Founder

Readings:

Buchanan R., "Wicked Problems in Design Thinking" *Design Issues: Vol. 8, No. 2* (Spring, 1992), pp. 5-21

Beaudouin-Lafon, M. and Mackay, W.E. (2002) Prototyping Development and Tools. In J.A. Jacko and A. Sears (Eds), *Handbook of Human-Computer Interaction*. New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, pages 1006-1031. (Revised edition 2007)

Week 2 | September 22

Topic: Why is KMD important?

Lecturer: Kostas Plataniotis, KMDI Director

Week 3 | September 29

Topic: Media, Knowledge and the body

Guest Lecturer: Steve Mann, DCS

Week 4 | October 6

Topic: What is KMDI in Sociology?

Guest Lecturer: Barry Wellman

Week 5 | October 13

Low Fidelity Prototype Critique

Guest Facilitator/Respondent: David Lieberman, ALD

Readings:

Whittington, J. "The process of effective critiques", *Computer Graphics* 28 (3): 401-407, June 2004.

Week 6 | October 20

Topic:

Guest Lecturer: Peter Pennefather, Pharmacy

Week 7 | October 27

Guest Lecturer: Mike Tissenbaum, OISE, CTL

Week 8 | November 3

Topic:

Guest Lecturer:
John Danahy, ALD

Week 9 | November 10

Guest Lecturer
iSchool
Lecturer: TBA

Week 10 | November 17

Guest Lecturer
Department of Computer Science
Steve Easterbrook

Week 11 | November 24

Prototyping Critique II
Guest Facilitator: TBA

Week 12 | December 1

Topic: **Wrap-up and Reflection**

Lecturer: Kostas Plataniotis

Week 13 | December 8

Class Demos: Conceptual Prototypes that answer the Design Challenge

For an updated class Reading List please refer to Blackboard.

E-Culture Policy

Only student Utormail accounts should be used for course communication and all emails from students must include the course code in the subject line and should be signed with the full student name and student number.

Teaching staff will endeavour to return e-mails within 48 hours with the exception of weekends and immediately before a test or an assignment is due.

Students are strongly discouraged from surfing or streaming media unrelated to class lectures or discussions during class and tutorial times.

Learning Technology

We will be using e-mail, blackboard and live presentations.

Late Assignments, Extensions and Missed Term Tests

You are expected to complete assignments on time. There will be a penalty for lateness of 10% deducted per day and work that is not handed in one week after the due date will not be accepted.

As of September 2010, students are required to declare their absence on ROSI, in order to receive academic accommodation for any course work such as missed tests, late assignments, and final examinations.

Deadline extensions will be granted only for a compelling reason and with appropriate documentation and students should contact instructors immediately, and no later than the due date, if a deadline cannot be met.

Students who miss a term test for reasons entirely beyond their control (eg. illness or accident) must, within one week of the missed test, submit an official request to the INSTITUTE (not the instructor). A departmental committee will review requests and students whose requests are approved will be contacted by the instructor via email. Claims that a departmental decision was not received will not be considered as reason for further consideration.

Medical certificates or Doctor's Notes must include the statement: "[Name of student] was unable to write the test on [date] for medical reasons." Documentation must show that the physician was consulted within one day of the test. A statement merely confirming the report of an illness made by a student is not acceptable.

Academic Integrity

From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters:

"It shall be an offence for a student knowingly:

(d) to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism."

Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the University's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the University itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formal and seriously the matter is dealt with – and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats academic offences very seriously. Students should note that copying, plagiarizing, or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be subject to academic discipline ranging from a mark of zero on the assignment, test or examination to dismissal from the University as outlined in the calendar. Any student **abetting** or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties.

Students are assumed to be informed about plagiarism and are expected to read the handout, titled "Plagiarism and Reference Format". [How Not to Plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize) (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>) written by Margaret Procter. It is a valuable and succinct source of information on the topic. You are also supposed to be familiar, and considered as being familiar, with the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (Codes and Policies or <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) and *Code of Student Conduct* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/studentc.htm>), which spell out your rights, your duties and provide all the details on grading regulations and academic offenses at the University of Toronto.

Classroom Management

Students are expected to come to class on time, turn off cell phones and pagers and to use laptops in class for note-taking only (not for web surfing, email, viewing movies etc.).

Religious Observance

Information about the University's Policy on Scheduling of Classes and Examinations and Other Accommodations for Religious Observances is at

<http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/guidelines/religiousobservances.htm>.

*****Every attempt will be made to follow this syllabus, but its contents are subject to change*****