INFO-H564 Prototyping for Interactive Systems

Course Syllabus

Section no.: 24055 (on-campus)
Credit hours: 3
Time: Wednesday 6:00pm–8:40pm
Location: IT 357, Informatics & Communications Technology Complex
First class: January 10, 2018
Instructor: Stuart Ough, M.S. Human Computer Interaction

Course Description

The course covers methodologies for designing and prototyping a broad interpretation of user interfaces, including rapid (paper) and dynamic (interactive) prototypes. Principles of design research and visual communication are discussed in the context of interaction design, cognition, and user behavior, as well as usability testing techniques for concept validation.

Required Text(s):

Title: Paper prototyping: The fast and easy way to design and refine user interfaces
Author(s): Snyder, C.
Year: 2003
Publisher: Morgan Kaufmann
ISBN: 978-1558608702

Title: Sketching user experiences: The workbook (PDF available for purchase)
Author(s): Greenberg, S., Carpendale, S., Marquardt, N., & Buxton, B.
Year: 2011
Publisher: Morgan Kaufmann
Book site: http://sketchbook.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/ (Links to an external site.)
ISBN: 978-0123819598

Suggested Text: (I will reference this book on occasion, plus it is an all-around excellent overview.)

Title: Prototyping: A Practitioner’s Guide
Author(s): Warfel, Todd Zaki
Year: 2009
Publisher: Rosenfeld Media
Book site: http://rosenfeldmedia.com/books/prototyping/
ISBN: 978-1933820217
Other Required Course Materials/Supplies:

(A full list, examples, and recommended sources will be provided in class)

- There will be a few things you will need to grab as part of your prototyping kits. We will discuss these on the first day of class. In general, these will be common office supplies, along with a few specialty materials that we will be experimenting with in class.

(Please check with instructor prior to acquiring an alternative product)

Additional Readings:

Texts for this course will also include conference and journal publications and industry articles that are all available online via university site licenses and/or posted to the course management website (check the "Resources" page). You will need to be logged in to the university network or connected via vpn.iu.edu to access site-licensed articles for free.

**Weekly Schedule**

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>In-Class</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>10 Jan</td>
<td>Course introduction</td>
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<td>Syllabus review</td>
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<td>Why sketching and prototyping?</td>
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<td>Thinking with a pencil</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>17 Jan</td>
<td>Design thinking</td>
<td><em>Paper Prototyping, ch 3</em></td>
<td>Class discussion</td>
<td>Sketch 0</td>
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<td><em>Sketching User Experiences</em></td>
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<td>sections 1, 2, and 6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>24 Jan</td>
<td>The single image</td>
<td><em>Paper Prototyping, ch 4</em></td>
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<td>Sketch 1</td>
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<td><em>Sketching User Experiences</em></td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<td>Slideware tool overview</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>31 Jan</td>
<td>Hybrid and physical sketching</td>
<td>sections 3.1–3.7</td>
<td>Crit 2: Sketch 2 Class discussion Getting your hands dirty Sketch 2</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>7 Feb</td>
<td>Storyboarding and animation</td>
<td>sections 3.8–3.11</td>
<td>Crit 3: Sketch 3 Class discussion Sketch 3</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>14 Feb</td>
<td>Interactive prototypes</td>
<td>IOT Articles</td>
<td>Crit 4: Sketch 4 Class discussion on The Internet of Things (IoT) Sketch 4</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>21 Feb</td>
<td>Interactive prototypes</td>
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<td>Introduce Midterm Assignment Midterm teams formed (due Friday 11:59 pm)</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>14 Mar</td>
<td>Spring Break (no class)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>28 Mar</td>
<td>Putting prototypes to work</td>
<td><em>Sketching User Experiences</em> sections 6.1–6.3 <em>Paper Prototyping</em> chapter 5</td>
<td>Introduce final project Final project teams formed (due Friday 11:59pm)</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<td>Paper Prototyping Chapters</td>
<td>Crit</td>
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| 13   | 4 Apr  | Experiment design                          | Paper Prototyping chapters 6–7 | 8    | Final project ideation sketches
class discussion
final project work                                        |
| 14   | 11 Apr | Running your study                        | Paper Prototyping chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 | 9    | Final project sketches (first iteration)
class discussion
final project work                                          |
| 15   | 18 Apr | Making sense of what you see              | Paper Prototyping chapters 10, 11, 12, 13 | 10   | Final project sketches (second iteration)
class discussion
final project work
final project evaluation plan (due Friday 11:59pm) |
| 16   | 25 Apr | Pros, cons, and politics Wrapping up      | Paper Prototyping chapters 12–13 | 11   | Final project prototypes (first iteration)
class discussion and debrief                                                             |
| Finals| May 2  | Final project presentations                |                             |      | Final project report                                                                  |
Overview: This course is about the application of prototyping in the context of user-centered design (UCD). Emphasis will be placed on the prototyping process, which includes applying good design, product conceptualization, user modeling, and product validation through product testing.

Interaction design will be a key factor for creating successful prototypes, i.e., about the modeling of the user’s experience and creating the most effective, efficient, and comfortable experience for the user.

Theory and Practice: There will be considerable reading and practice every week. Theory plays an important part to establish an understanding of knowledge of the interrelated aspects of process and product development. Practice will include weekly assignments and in-class exercises used to broaden the understanding from the reading.

Design: Prototyping is about the visual representations of complex systems and interaction models that meet high levels of design and usability. Drawing and related craft skills are important to do this successfully. Prototyping is not about perfecting one’s drawing or craft skills per se, but the intellectual and physical freedom to express ideas on paper or in three dimensions instantly, easily, and spontaneously. Regarding generating visualizations of ideas, computer graphic software is still rather primitive compared to the directness of pen and paper or other on hand materials.

Hence, to better express visual concepts through images or on-the-fly structures, it is recommended that students use any extra time available to study books, magazines, and web sites on design. This helps to continually provide a visual vocabulary of good design. Also, if time allows, students should try to keep a daily drawing diary or notebook. They may want to draw both objects and figures. The key is to become comfortable with the drawing process in which mental images and concepts are translated into visual form. An interesting book on this that students might find useful, in addition to the texts used in this course, is Elizabeth Boling’s book, Design Sketching, which you can find on lulu.com.

Prototyping Tools: Beside the theoretical background of this course, we will cover a range of tools for making static and dynamic prototypes. The various pros and cons of available software will be discussed, but class time will not be spent learning new computer-aided tools (more on this later).

Prototyping Terminology: It should be noted that the range of literature that discuss prototyping, in some cases use different terms to describe the various aspects of the process. There is a general agreement and use of most of the terms, but in some cases, professionals are rather relaxed about the exact usage of terms. For example, all practitioners will agree on the general meaning of a dynamic prototype as a working model. However, whether it would be considered as the basis for a finished product is another matter. Some firms only use Flash or Director to make their dynamic prototypes representing systems that would eventually be programmed in C++ or Java. So, company policy, budget, and skill-set of the designer have much to do with the final output.
Not Software Centered: Because this course is NOT software-centered, all students should attempt to learn the mechanics of the dynamic prototyping tools. Software demos will be provided if needed, such as with the Arduino programming section. Those who already know how to use these tools have an advantage. It is, however, recommended that students attempt to broaden their skill-set by learning these digital prototyping tools on their own. Common software used as prototyping tools include: Flash, DreamWeaver (HTML), Visio, Visual Basic, Photoshop, Fireworks, and even PowerPoint. Examples of prototyping specific software include Axure, Balsamiq, Omnigraffle, and GoMockingbird.

Course Objectives / Outcomes

The learning outcomes of this course will include that each student acquire the ability to explain terms and apply concepts related to the following range of prototyping topics:

1. Prototyping: terminology
2. Prototyping: paper, rapid, and dynamic techniques
3. A user-centered approach as applied to prototyping
4. User needs / requirements and product assessments
5. Design research processes and the lifecycle of interaction design
6. Various design research theories and methods
7. Interface design concepts and techniques
8. Product design evaluation and usability testing methods

Students will be able explain, recognize, and apply with considerable depth:

1. Knowledge about prototyping related to:
   1. Prototyping terms and principles
   2. A user-centered approach to prototyping and interaction design
   3. Interface design principles and processes
   4. Design theory and methods
   5. A user-centered approach to interaction design that will include:
      1. Analyzing user needs and requirements
      2. Creating interface designs and related prototypes

- Adapting specific product evaluation/testing methods

2. Methods of product design and development related to:
   1. Producing prototypes based on user assessments
   2. Applying prototype principles and a user-centered approach to interaction design
   3. Apply evaluation and usability testing methods to prototypes to validate design decisions
Assessment & Evaluation

Sketching/prototyping exercises — 5 (WS) 25%
Midterm project (MP) 20%
Final project (FP) 35%

Class Participation—attendance in class, attention and constructive participation in crits, engaged involvement in class discussions (CP) 20%

Grades for the sketching/prototyping exercises and class participation will be recorded as individual grades; the midterm assignment and final project will receive team grades (modulated based on peer evaluation/contribution reports that you will submit as part of each group/team deliverable).

Grading Scale:

A+ 97 – 100 Outstanding achievement, given at the instructor’s discretion
A 93 – 96.99 Excellent achievement
A– 90 – 92.99 Very good work
B+ 87 – 89.99 Good work
B 83 – 86.99 Marginal work
B– 80 – 82.99 Very marginal work
C+ 77 – 79.99 Unacceptable work (Core course must be repeated)
C  73 – 76.99  Unacceptable work (Core course must be repeated)

C−  70 – 72.99  Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)

D+  67 – 69.99  Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)

D  63 – 66.99  Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)

D−  60 – 62.99  Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)

F  Below 60  Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)

Policies for Attendance & Assignment/Project Deadlines

1. **Responsibility for due dates and related materials**: All weekly due assignments are the students’ responsibility. If class is missed, the student is still responsible for the assignment, as well as to find out what was covered in class, e.g., any new assignments or variations to an existing assignment. ALL assignment deadlines are outlined in the syllabus or syllabus supplemental documents provided on OnCourse/Canvas. The instructor will only give one reminder of these dates. In the end, each student is responsible for the deadline. Also, weekly assignment deadlines should be adhered to, to insure fairness to all students. For the purpose of maintaining an equal and fair evaluation of each student’s work, no student will receive special treatment. As a result, the following rules will apply to this course:
   1. **All assignments must be ready** to hand in or email at the designated time and place as stated on the assignment sheet.
   2. **All assignments handed in late will be reduced 10% for every day late** (24 hours from the due date and time). For example, if the assignment is due at 6:00pm on the due date and it is time stamped 6:01pm, your grade on the assignment will be reduced automatically by 10%. If the class meets in the classroom, students must be ready to hand the assignment in at the start of class.

2. **NOTE**: Due dates for the online section will be a few days behind the in-class syllabus. This is to account for the time delay in upload presentations and online students having a few days to listen. Due dates will be shifted to the weekend AFTER that of the on-campus
Incompletes:
The instructor may assign an Incomplete (I) grade only if at least 75% of the required coursework has been completed at passing quality and holding you to previously established time limits would result in unjust hardship to you. All unfinished work must be completed by the date set by the instructor. Left unchanged, an Incomplete automatically becomes an F after one year. http://registrar.iupui.edu/incomp.html (Links to an external site.)

Points to Note for Success:

1. Rigor: This course will move along at a quick pace, being organized around a collection of weekly chapter readings and design exercises related to HCI theory and application.
2. Accountability: Assignments and projects are not merely for learning but also a test of your character.
3. Cooperation and Communication: Cooperation with the instructor is vital for maintaining a high degree of productivity and harmony in weekly assignments and during class time. Oral and written communication is an important part of this course. We will have weekly open discussion sessions and project reports provide a way to explain in detail the theoretical and practical aspects of the project.
4. Creativity: This course demands not only a weekly response to assignments, but also some degree of creativity in product design and concept development.

Assignments

Sketching/Prototyping Exercises:

For the first half of the term, students will be introduced to a wide variety of sketching and prototyping techniques. Nearly every lecture meeting will include a hands-on “studio” session focused on developing students’ skills with a particular class of design techniques, as well as making them aware of how these techniques might be used to communicate particular aspects of a design.

Following each of these skill-development–focused weeks, students will be expected to complete an individual sketching or prototyping exercise, which will give the hands-on experience applying a sketching or prototyping technique. (Some exercises may be completed in a small group of 2–4 students.)

The deliverables from these exercises will be due at the beginning of the first class meeting after they are assigned. They will be evaluated primarily on the creativity of thinking represented and the communicative effectiveness of the deliverable; less focus will be placed on the artistic merit of the submissions (this is important to note).
Midterm Assignment and Final Project

Students will also complete two in-depth design projects over the course of the term. Each of these group assignments will allow students to draw on multiple sketching and prototyping techniques to more fully communicate an interactive system design.

Students will work in teams of 3–5 students to develop sketches and prototypes representing a novel interactive computing technology or environment that addresses some well-identified user need. For the midterm project, the nature and scope of this technology will be specified as part of the assignment; for the final project, students will be free to propose a more open-ended project that best suits the research interests and prototyping skills of the group members. The final project will also require students to conduct early-stage user evaluations of these sketches and prototypes with representative users and incorporate these users' feedback into successive iterations of the design(s), as well as discussing how to implement this prototyping in a longer-term research project.

Class Participation

I expect students to be appropriately prepared for each lecture meeting, to attend all lectures on time, and to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Your class participation will be evaluated based on your successful completion of the following criteria: In-class (or online) prototyping exercises as assigned.

- Responsiveness and knowledge of reading materials during open discussions
- Evidence of active preparation in team and/or class or online
- Evidence of active preparation in team projects
- Class attendance and promptness to class time (on campus section).
- Responsiveness to forums (online and on campus)

Reading and Class Discussions

We will cover several sections from the course texts each week, in addition to supplemental readings in human–computer interaction. Each student should not only read but arrive at a competent understanding of the materials. Multiple measures will be used to assess learning competency from the weekly readings:

1. Weekly discussions, directed by specific questions, will be given in an open class discussion format, either in class or in an online chat forum. During this time the instructor will challenge student comprehension.
2. In-class projects will be used to challenge student comprehension, while adding practical applications of the techniques discussed.
3. Quizzes may be given to assess learning and comprehension.
The purpose of class lectures/discussions is to provide an overview of the chapter and to help provide insight into the course theory. Questions generated by the students during the class discussion are necessary to provide more depth in some of the more problematic areas of theory and application. Each week, students must:

1. Come prepared to discuss the reading
2. Provide questions that can help the class dive into the content of the chapter, e.g., questions that are derived from a students’ perplexity, confusion, or lack of clarity regarding some theory or practice. They may also challenge the class with a problem derived from the theory.

Design Crits

During the course, students will have multiple opportunities to present and elicit peer feedback on their sketches and prototypes—based on both the weekly sketching/prototyping exercises and their midterm and final projects. A significant portion of each student’s class participation grade will be determined by their performance in these critique sessions, which will be held at the beginning of class during most weeks of the term. When assigned to have their own work reviewed, students are expected to be prepared to provide a brief, professional presentation of their sketches and/or prototypes and to help guide the discussion. Students are also expected to provide thoughtful, respectful, and constructive comments when evaluating others’ work.

Absences

Only the following are acceptable excuses for absences: death in the family, hospitalization, or serious illness; jury duty; court ordered summons; religious holiday; university/school coordinated athletic, scholastic, or professional activities; an unanticipated event that would cause attendance to result in substantial hardship to one’s self or immediate family. Absences must be explained to the satisfaction of the instructor, who will decide whether omitted work may be made up. To protect your privacy, doctor’s excuses should exclude the nature of the condition and focus instead on how the condition affects on your coursework.

Code of Conduct

All students should aspire to the highest standards of academic integrity. Using another student’s work on an assignment, cheating on a test, not quoting or citing references correctly, or any other form of dishonesty or plagiarism shall result in a grade of zero on the item and possibly an F in the course. Incidences of academic misconduct shall be referred to the Department Chair and repeated violations shall result in dismissal from the program.

All students are responsible for reading, understanding, and applying the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct and in particular the section on academic misconduct. Refer to The Code > Responsibilities > Academic Misconduct at
http://www.indiana.edu/~code/. (Links to an external site.) All students must also successfully complete the Indiana University Department of Education “How to Recognize Plagiarism” Tutorial and Test. https://www.indiana.edu/~ist (Links to an external site.) You must document the difference between your writing and that of others. Use quotation marks in addition to a citation, page number, and reference whenever writing someone else’s words (e.g., following the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association). To detect plagiarism instructors apply a range of methods, including Turnitin.com. http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/libinfo/turnitin (Links to an external site.)

Academic Misconduct:

1. **Cheating**: Cheating is considered to be an attempt to use or provide unauthorized assistance, materials, information, or study aids in any form and in any academic exercise or
   1. A student must not use external assistance on any “in-class” or “take-home” examination, unless the instructor specifically has authorized external assistance. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the use of tutors, books, notes, calculators, computers, and wireless communication
   2. A student must not use another person as a substitute in the taking of an examination or quiz, nor allow other persons to conduct research or to prepare work, without advanced authorization from the instructor to whom the work is being submitted
   3. A student must not use materials from a commercial term paper company, files of papers prepared by other persons, or submit documents found on the internet
   4. A student must not collaborate with other persons on a particular project and submit a copy of a written report that is represented explicitly or implicitly as the student’s individual work
   5. A student must not use any unauthorized assistance in a laboratory or at a computer terminal
   6. A student must not steal examinations or other course materials, including but not limited to, physical copies and photographic or electronic copies
   7. A student must not submit substantial portions of the same academic work for credit or honors more than once without permission of the instructor or program to whom the work is being submitted
   8. A student must not, without authorization, alter a grade or score in any way, nor alter answers on a returned exam or assignment

2. **Fabrication**: A student must not falsify or invent any information or data in an academic exercise including, but not limited to, records or reports and laboratory results

3. **Plagiarism**: Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s work, including the work of other students, as one’s own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge. What is considered “common knowledge” may differ from course to course
1. A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures of another person
2. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge indebtedness whenever:
   1. directly quoting another person’s actual words, whether oral or written;
   2. using another person’s ideas, opinions, or theories;
   3. paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
   4. borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
   5. offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment
3. Interference: A student must not steal, change, destroy, or impede another student’s work, nor should the student unjustly attempt, through a bribe, a promise of favors or threats, to affect any student’s grade or the evaluation of academic performance. Impeding another student’s work includes, but is not limited to, the theft, defacement, or mutilation of resources so as to deprive others of the information
4. Violation of Course Rules: A student must not violate course rules established by a department, the course syllabus, verbal or written instructions, or the course materials that are rationally related to the content of the course or to the enhancement of the learning process
5. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: A student must not intentionally or knowingly help or attempt to help another student to commit an act of academic misconduct, nor allow another student to use his or her work or resources to commit an act of misconduct.

OTHER POLICIES

1. IUPUI course policies: A number of campus policies governing IUPUI courses may be found at the following link: http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html (Links to an external site.)
2. Sexual misconduct: IU does not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help. It is important to know that federal regulations and University policy require faculty to promptly report complaints of potential sexual misconduct known to them to their campus Deputy Title IX Coordinator(s) to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available. The University will work with you to protect your privacy by sharing information with only those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. If you are seeking help and would like to speak to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with a Mental Health Counselor on campus (contact information available at http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/employee/confidential.html (Links to an external site.)). Find more information about sexual violence, including campus and community resource at http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/ (Links to an external site.)
3. **Classroom civility:** To maintain an effective and inclusive learning environment, it is important to be an attentive and respectful participant in lectures, discussions, group work, and other classroom exercises. Thus, unnecessary disruptions should be avoided, such as ringing cell phones or engaging in private conversations and other unrelated activities. Cell phones, media players, or any noisy devices should be turned off during a class. Texting, surfing the Internet, and posting to Facebook or Twitter during class are generally not permitted. Laptop use may be permitted if it is used for taking notes or conducting class activities. Students should check with the instructor about permissible devices in class. IUPUI nurtures and promotes “a campus climate that seeks, values, and cultivates diversity in all of its forms and that provides conditions necessary for all campus community members to feel welcomed, supported, included, and valued” (IUPUI Strategic Initiative 9). IUPUI prohibits “discrimination against anyone for reasons of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or [veteran] status” (Office of Equal Opportunity). Profanity or derogatory comments about the instructor, fellow students, invited speakers or other classroom visitors, or any members of the campus community shall not be tolerated. A violation of this rule shall result in a warning and, if the offense continues, possible disciplinary action.

4. **Right to revise:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary and, in such an event, will notify students of the changes.

5. **Bringing children to class:** To ensure an effective learning environment, children are not permitted to attend class with their parents, guardians, or childcare provider.

6. **Disabilities Policy:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to reasonable accommodations. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of accommodations needed for the course. Students requiring accommodations because of a disability must register with Adaptive Educational Services (AES) and complete the appropriate AES-issued before receiving accommodations. The AES office is located at UC 100, Taylor Hall (Email: aes@iupui.edu, 317 274-3241). Visit [http://aes.iupui.edu](http://aes.iupui.edu) (Links to an external site.) for more information.

7. **Emergency Preparedness:** Safety on campus is everyone’s responsibility. Know what to do in an emergency so that you can protect yourself and others. For specific information, visit the emergency management website. [http://protect.iu.edu/emergency](http://protect.iu.edu/emergency) (Links to an external site.)
Mission Statement

The Mission of IUPUI is to provide for its constituents excellence in

- Teaching and Learning;
- Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity; and
- Civic Engagement.

With each of these core activities characterized by

- Collaboration within and across disciplines and with the community;
- A commitment to ensuring diversity; and
- Pursuit of best practices

IUPUI’s mission is derived from and aligned with the principal components—Communities of Learning, Responsibilities of Excellence, Accountability and Best Practices—of Indiana University’s Strategic Directions Charter.

Statement of Values

IUPUI values the commitment of students to learning; of faculty to the highest standards of teaching, scholarship, and service; and of staff to the highest standards of service. IUPUI recognizes students as partners in learning. IUPUI values the opportunities afforded by its location in Indiana’s capital city and is committed to serving the needs of its community. Thus, IUPUI students, faculty, and staff are involved in the community, both to provide educational programs and patient care and to apply learning to community needs through service. As a leader in fostering collaborative relationships, IUPUI values collegiality, cooperation, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship as well as honesty, integrity, and support for open inquiry and dissemination of findings. IUPUI is committed to the personal and professional development of its students, faculty, and staff and to continuous improvement of its programs and services.