UNIVERSITY
OF SKÖVDE

COURSE SYLLABUS

User Experience Design, third-cycle level
7.5 credits

Course code: IT0940F
Version number: 4.1
Valid from: 1 July 2024
Ratified by: Curriculum Committee for Third-cycle Studies
Date of ratification: 11 March 2024

1. General information about the course

The course is provided by the University of Skövde and is named User Experience Design, third-cycle level (User Experience Design, forskarnivå). It comprises 7.5 credits .

The course is a part of the third-cycle subject area of Informatics.

2. Entry requirements

The prerequisites for this course are general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes, i.e. a second-cycle qualification or satisfied requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second cycle (or the equivalent).

In order to fulfil the specific entry requirements, the applicant must have completed course requirements of at least 60 credits, including an independent project of at least 15 credits at the second cycle, within the subject Informatics, applicable areas of a similar kind or other fields assessed as directly relevant for thesis work in the subject Informatics.

An additional requirement is proof of skills in English equivalent of studies at upper secondary level in Sweden, known as the Swedish course English 6. This is normally demonstrated by means of an internationally recognized language test, e.g. IELTS or TOEFL or the equivalent.

3. Course content

The course aims to introduce and deepen the PhD students knowledge within the interdisciplinary field of User Experience Design (UXD). UXD is the process that is used to develop systems, products, artefacts and services that are experienced by the user as meaningful and relevant, both before, during as well as after the use, which includes a range of different aspects such as usability, function, esthetics and emotional response. The course introduce the characteristics of the field, its interdisciplinary nature and its various applications. The PhD student works independently and in seminars based on research in UXD. UXD will be analyzed, critically reviewed and discussed as a theoretical field as well as a vocational and application area. In the course, the PhD student will participant in and lead seminars and present UXD material.

The course also focus on different current research challanges in the field. The PhD student will independently identify, describe and analyze current challenges by writing an individual scientific report. Furthermore, the PhD students will critically reflect on ethical and societal aspects in relation to research in UXD.

4. Objectives

After completed course the student should be able to:

- Extensively describe, analyze and problematize the origin and the state of the art of the interdisciplinary field of User Experience Design (UXD);
- Extensively exemplify and contrast different perspectives on central foundations, principles, methods and theories within UXD;
- Extensively describe, contrast and discuss different application areas of UXD;
- Identify, analyze and problematize current research challanges in UXD and
- Analyze and argue ethical and societal issues that may arise in relation to UXD research.

5. Examination

The course is graded G (Pass) or U (Fail).

To receive the grade Pass on the course, all examination parts have to be graded Pass.

The examinations of the course consist of the following modes of assessment:

- **Seminar assignment**
  4.5 credits, grades: G/U
- **Assignment**
  3 credits, grades: G/U

Doctoral students with a permanent disability who have been approved for directed educational support may be offered adapted or alternative modes of assessment.

6. Types of instruction and language of instruction

The teaching is comprised of supervision, seminars/group discussions and lectures.

The teaching can be conducted completely or partially on distance depending on current circumstances.

The teaching is conducted in English.

7. Course literature and other educational materials

Hartson, R. & Pyla, P. S. (2019). The UX Book: Designing a Quality User Experience (2nd ed.). Amsterdam: Morgan Kaufmann. ISBN 9780128053423.

The course literature comprises also scientific articles and book chapters. A list of these are provided be the course coordinator. Furthermore, additonal relevant literature is identified by the PhD student in consultation with the course coordinator for use in the assignments.

8. Doctoral student influence

Doctoral student influence in the course is ensured by means of course evaluation. The students are informed about the results of the evaluation and potential measures that have been taken or are planned, based on the course evaluation.

9. Additional information

Further information about the course, as well as national and local governing documents for higher education, is available on the website of the University of Skövde.