

Academic Session	Date Description Last Updated
2017/18	17 July 2017

Module convenor

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Contributing lecturers

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Module aims and objectives:

Interaction Science is concerned with understanding how people interact with computing systems. The module aims to: (1) lay the theoretical foundation for understanding human behaviour relevant to HCI, and (2) develop the conceptual and practical skills necessary to undertake HCI research.

Students will develop an understanding of human behaviour relevant to HCI. Major topics will include: perception and motor behaviour, cognitive elements of interactive behaviour (learning, expertise, errors), and the role of context and social factors on how people interact with computing systems.

Students will develop the skills necessary to gather, analyse, and interpret qualitative and quantitative data. Major topics will include: experimental methods and statistical data analysis techniques, observational and interview methods and qualitative data analysis techniques.

Module learning outcomes:

- **Knowledge and understanding of:** Theoretical perspectives on understanding human behaviour and how people interact with computing systems.
- **Intellectual (thinking skills) – able to:** Apply theories of Interaction Science to practical case studies; Present well founded arguments relating theory to practice; Reasoning from data; Critical argumentation skills.
- **Practical skills:** Design and conduct research that develops an understanding of how people interact with a computer system, product or service; Gather and analyse qualitative and quantitative data to develop an understanding of how people interacting with a computer system.
- **Transferable skills:** Argumentation and communication of ideas; Synthesis of information from multiple sources; Data handling and analysis skills; Written and graphical presentation skills.

Assessment method:

Written Coursework (6000 words) – 50%

3 hour unseen examination – 45%

Peerwise Interactive coursework – 5%

Module schedule:

Autumn Term. Monday & Thursday afternoons.

Week	Monday	Thursday
1	Understanding People: Pointing	Quantitative Methods: Experimental Design
2	Understanding People: Anthropometrics	Quantitative Methods: Writing the Method Section of a Report
3	Understanding People: Visual Search	Quantitative Methods: Descriptive Statistics
4	Understanding People: Cognitive Capabilities	Quantitative Methods: Fitts' Law Lab Activity
5	Understanding People: Human Error	Quantitative Methods: Inferential Statistics
6	Understanding People: Multitasking	Quantitative Methods: Multitasking Lab Activity
7	Understanding People: Interruptions	Qualitative Methods: When, Why, and How?
8	Understanding People: Affective Computing	Qualitative Methods: Collecting Data
9	Understanding People: Distributed Cognition	Qualitative Methods: Analysing Data
10	Final Exam	Qualitative Methods: Reporting Findings

Note: Module descriptions may be subject to minor alterations due to lecturer availability & changes to regulations.