

Note: This syllabus may represent a past offering of this course and future course offerings may differ.

HCDE 501: Theoretical Foundations

Instructor: Mark Zachry

Quarter/Year: Winter 2013

Course Schedule: Th, 6:00 – 9:50PM

Course Description

This course will introduce you to major theoretical perspectives from our field. By reading and writing about this material, you will have an opportunity to explore the complexities of interaction, communication, and technology as they are considered in influential theoretical frameworks. This exploration will include how interaction has been differently defined and why these differences matter to people who study and produce work.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to

- Define and map differences among some of the major theories that are currently most influential within the community of scholars in our field.
- Explain and illustrate the implications of some of these theories on our perceptions of what texts, interfaces, and other designed artifacts are and how they function in human activity, organizations, and society at large: for example, to transfer information, construct reality, regulate conduct, and create identity.
- Explain and illustrate the implications of some of these theories for people conducting research.
- Explain and illustrate the implications of some of these theories for professionals.

Grading and Assignments

Assignments	Percentage
Participation (reading journal and in the classroom)	10%
Major Figure (Presentation with Summary)	15%
Theory Connection (Short Paper and Presentation)	15%
Group Web	25%
Final Paper	35%