

Syllabus

PSY 463 Human Factors

Course Description: A survey of methods and research in the study of the interface between human operators and machines. Applications include equipment design for computers, aircraft, automobiles, household appliances, and similar systems.

Instructor

Name: Kevin Eschleman, Ph.D. (Dr. E)
Pronouns: he, him, his
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Office Hours: Visit Dr. E via Zoom during [office hours](#)

Assignments and Grading

All assignment instructions are provided via Canvas. Use the assignment instructions and grading rubric attached to the instructions to guide you towards earning an A grade. Most assignments are worth 10 points. The final grade for the course is based on this breakdown:

A	93% to 100%
A-	90% to 92.9%
B+	87% to 89.9%
B	83% to 86.9%
B-	80% to 82.9%
C+	77% to 79.9%
C	73% to 76.9%
C-	70% to 72.9%
D	60% to 69.9%
F	0% to 59.9%

Learning Outcomes

After completing PSY463, you will be able to...

1. Describe the different sub-fields and professional opportunities within Human Factors Psychology.
2. Apply research methods to study how humans use technology.
3. Explain the role of psychology in the development of technology.
4. Recognize design features of websites, control panels, signs/labels, and complex operation systems.
5. Implement human-centered design practices to improve effectiveness, efficiency, and enjoyment.
6. Use text, imagery, and color to communicate effectively.

Course Modality and General Expectations

This is an entirely online course. This course will be delivered entirely online through the learning management system, Canvas. You will use your SFSU username and password to log in to the Canvas course.

In Canvas, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. At designated times throughout the semester, we will participate in a blend of self-paced activities using Canvas and other internet-based technologies. Activities will consist of online assignments, discussion forums, and announcements.

This is a 3 unit course and will require approximately 90 hours to read course materials, watch course lectures, and participate in course assessment activities.

Reading and Learning Materials

All learning materials are provided via Canvas. These include recorded lectures, readings, and other virtual resources. If you would like a physical copy of the book, here is the information: *Set Phasers on Stun: And other True Tales of Design, Technology, and Human Error* by Steven Casey.

You will need access to a computing device for this course. Although a desktop or laptop is most convenient for students, phones and tablets can also be helpful.

Course Schedule

The course materials are divided into 5 modules. You should review the resources and complete the assignments within a prior module before proceeding to a subsequent module.

Module	Topic	Assignments
1	History of Human Factors & Task Analysis	1 to 4
2	User Experience (UX) & Design	5 to 9
3	Communicating with Imagery and Color	10 to 16
4	HROs, Safety, Ergonomics, & Automation	17 to 23
5	Careers in Human Factors	24 to 28

Classroom Policies

Attendance and Participation

This is an “online” course, which is presented via Canvas. There will be no required class time. You are expected to be active on Canvas for the duration of the course schedule. This includes completing assignment online, reading instructor emails, and reading / reviewing all materials. Please note, Canvas provides the instructor statistics regarding each user’s activity within the online portal (e.g., the files you opened, the dates you logged in).

Academic Dishonesty

Any form of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated. Individuals caught engaging in such behavior will receive an “F” for the course and will be subjected to disciplinary action. Always use your own words for assignments – DO NOT QUOTE.

Disability Access

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. Please contact the instructor at the start of the course session.

Psychology Department Statement on Inclusion

We VALUE Respect, Civility, and Inclusion

The Psychology Department is committed to providing a multi-cultural academic setting and climate that is respectful, inclusive, civil, and harassment-free for individuals regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, indigenous heritage, immigration status, nationality, physical appearance, political affiliation, race, religion or spirituality (or lack thereof), sexual orientation, social class, socioeconomic status, or other cultural, demographic, and social identification*.

We ASK that all members of our department, including undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, and guests, treat each other with respect and civility. We strive for this in every aspect of our interactions including, for example, in language (e.g., pronouns), verbal and written communication (e.g., thoughtful and active listening), and behaviors in the virtual or real classroom, research laboratory, as well as in any other setting that holds a department function.

Examples of language or behaviors in the academic setting that are not respectful include but are not limited to:

- Discriminatory statements that are overt (e.g., hostility) or subtle (e.g., microaggressions)
- Posting discriminatory materials on campus or campus-related forums (Canvas, Zoom)
- Behaviors or statements that interfere with the learning of others
- Marginalizing individuals based on their social or demographic identity, or perceived identity
- Inappropriate, unwelcome, or non-consensual comments, behaviors, photography or recording
- Advocating for or encouraging any of the above

We encourage ACCOUNTABILITY and seeking SUPPORT

To receive support for

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Retention and Education <https://aapi.sfsu.edu/>
- Disability Programs and Resource Center <https://access.sfsu.edu/>
- Diversity, Student Equity, and Interfaith Programs <https://equity.sfsu.edu/>
- Mental health at Counseling & Psychological Services <https://psyservs.sfsu.edu/>
- Physical health at the Health Center <https://health.sfsu.edu/>
- Sexualized violence at the Safe Place <https://psyservs.sfsu.edu/content/safe-place>
- Undocumented students at the Dream Resource Center <https://drc.sfsu.edu>

To contact

- Professors <https://psychology.sfsu.edu/faculty-staff>
- The University Police Department <https://upd.sfsu.edu/>

To report

- Sexual Harassment or Discrimination <https://titleix.sfsu.edu/reporting>
- A Bias Incident <https://equity.sfsu.edu/Bias-Incident-Education-Team-at-SF-State>

To learn about the University Code of Conduct

- Undergraduate: <https://conduct.sfsu.edu/standards>
- Graduate: <https://bulletin.sfsu.edu/graduate-education/academic-policies-procedures/>