



Reg no: HS 2023/1496

Course syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on 16 november 2023 and is valid from the autumn semester 2023 at Karlstad University.

Third-Cycle Subject Area

Informatik

Course Title

Usability testing, prototyping and user-centred evaluation

ECTS credits:

7,5

Degree Level:

Third-cycle level

Language of Instruction:

English. Individual tutoring is offered in both Swedish and English.

Target group and Entry Requirements

To be eligible for the course, you must be admitted to the doctoral programme..

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, PhD students should be able to:

1. evaluate systems and applications from a use perspective,
2. justify evaluation results orally and in writing with clear traceability in terms of assumptions, the importance of the evaluation method for the results, as well as how conclusions and recommendations are related to the results,
3. apply, explain, and appraise user-centred interaction design methods including various forms of prototyping,
4. act professionally in their role as interaction designer, which involves the ability to make ethical decisions in connection with user-oriented development activities, and
5. evaluate and argue for the needs of the client and the user of websites as well as balance needs against budget.

Content

Students practice evaluating designs and design proposals through prototyping and user tests. Special emphasis is on formulating reliable and valid evaluation reports.

Course components:

- user testing in laboratory, via Internet, and in home environments
- practice in using screen recording, sound recording, Wizard-of-Oz, and eye-tracking as evaluation tools,
- evaluating interaction design proposals through focus group and questionnaire including video file demonstrations of interaction design proposals,
- observation of and work together with undergraduate students who are learning to act as test moderators.
- commenting on a test report by criticising insufficient data reporting and defect conclusions, as well as giving suggestions from methodological literature on improvements of the presentation throughout the whole report,
- presenting evaluations to teachers, course participants, researchers and practitioners, and exercises in report writing.

Instruction is based on lectures, seminars, and laboratory sessions.

Reading list and other study material

See separate document.

Examination (Fyll i)

Assessment of all the learning outcomes is based on active participation in seminars, laboratory sessions and oral and written presentations, and a written exam. The written exam involves correcting a faulty test report.

Quality assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement of this and other courses.

Additional Information