

Human-Computer Interaction

Course Introduction

Professor Bilge Mutlu

Today's Agenda

- Topic introduction
- HCI research at Wisconsin
- Course introduction

Instructional Team

Instructor: Bilge Mutlu

Professor of Computer Science, Psychology, & Industrial Engineering



PhD, 2009, Carnegie Mellon University

bilge@cs.wisc.edu, <http://bilgemutlu.com>

<http://bmutlu.github.io/research-summary/>



Instructional Team

TA: Yuna Hwang

Fourth year graduate student

Department of Computer Sciences



How about you?

Give us your name, program, year.

What is this course about?

***Human-Computer Interaction (HCI),
obviously! 🙄***

What does HCI mean to you?
Who can give a definition?

Different Perspectives

Design
Implications

I want to design a computer system and need to know what to design.

Systems

I would like to discover new ways of making user interfaces.

Evaluation

I have designed a computer system and would like to understand whether it is any good (for people).

Understanding Impact

I would like to understand how a computer system that I designed affects people's lives.

Societal Change

I would like to understand how a computer technology affects society

Definitions

“...a discipline concerned with the design, evaluation and implementation of interactive computing systems for human use and with the study of major phenomena surrounding them.”

—ACM

*Where does HCI fit within **Computer Science?***

1



¹Image sources: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)

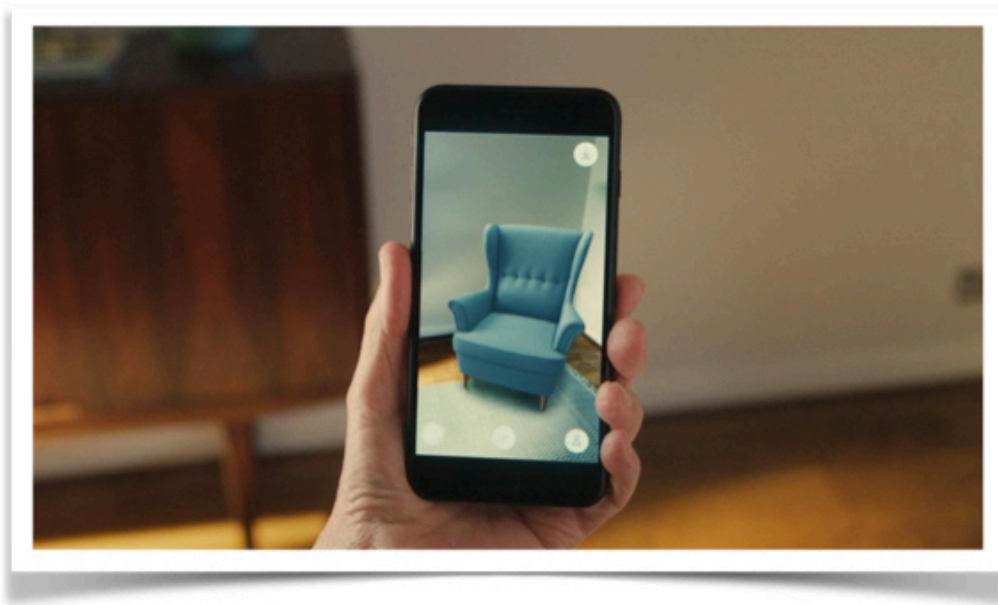
What's missing here?

“The old computing is about what computer can do, the new computing is about what people can do [using the computer].”²

—Schneiderman, 2002

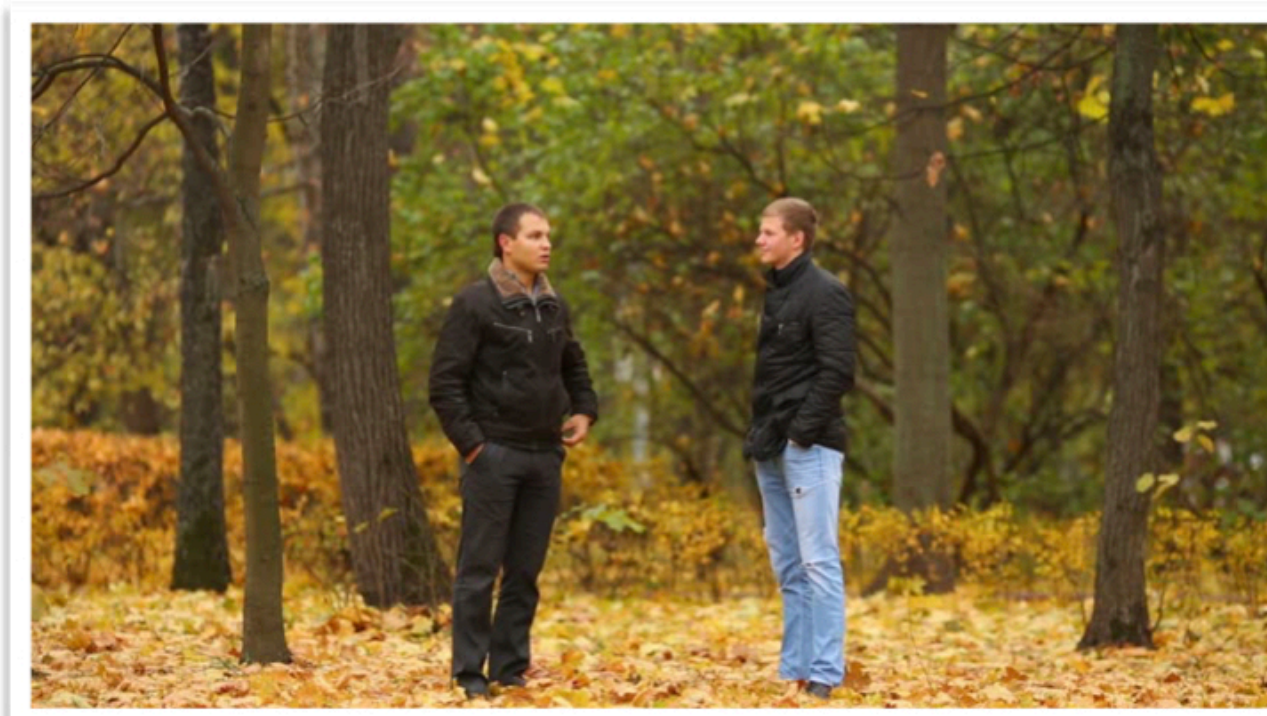
² Image source





³ Image sources: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

***This course is cross-listed with Psychology
and Educational Psychology.
Where does HCI fit within *psychology/
education*?***



⁴ Image sources: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)

What's missing here?



⁵ Image sources: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)

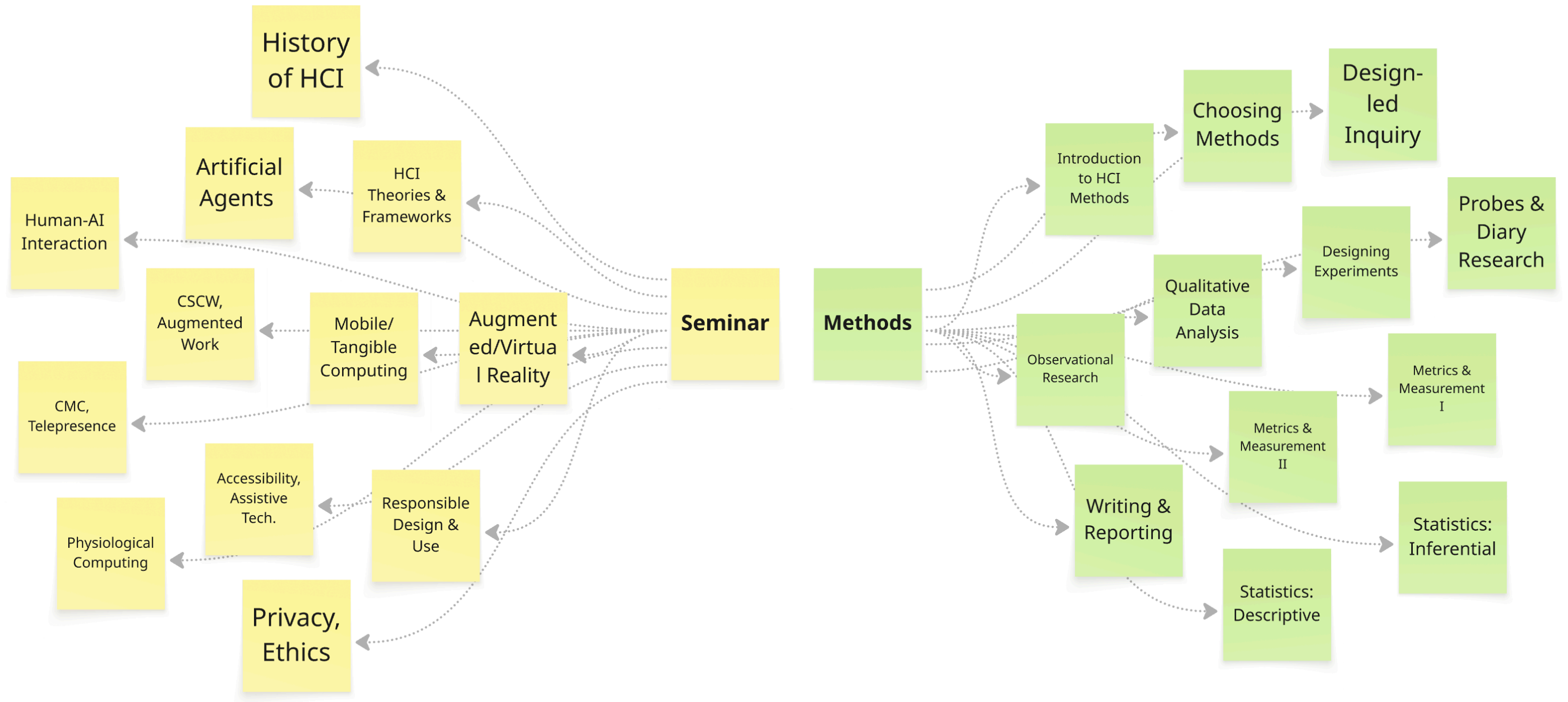
Seminar **in HCI**

+

Research Methods **in HCI**

+

Independent Study **in HCI**



Wearable computing⁷



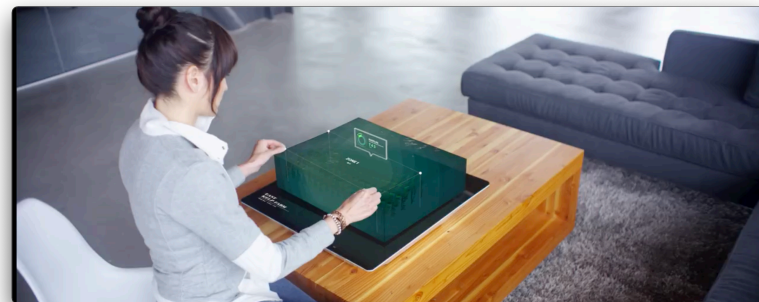
CSCW



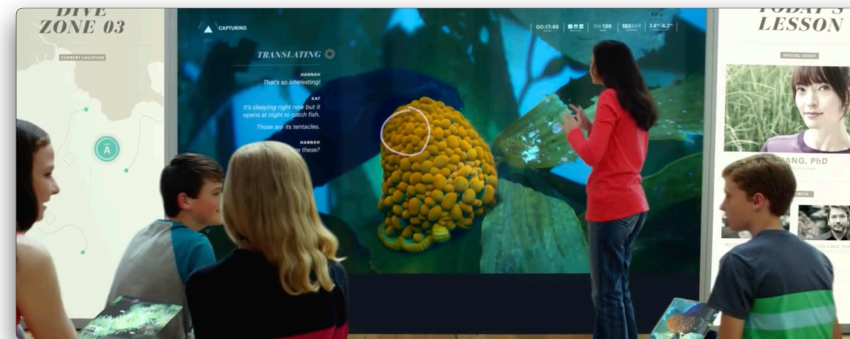
CMC



Tangible computing/AR



Educational Technology

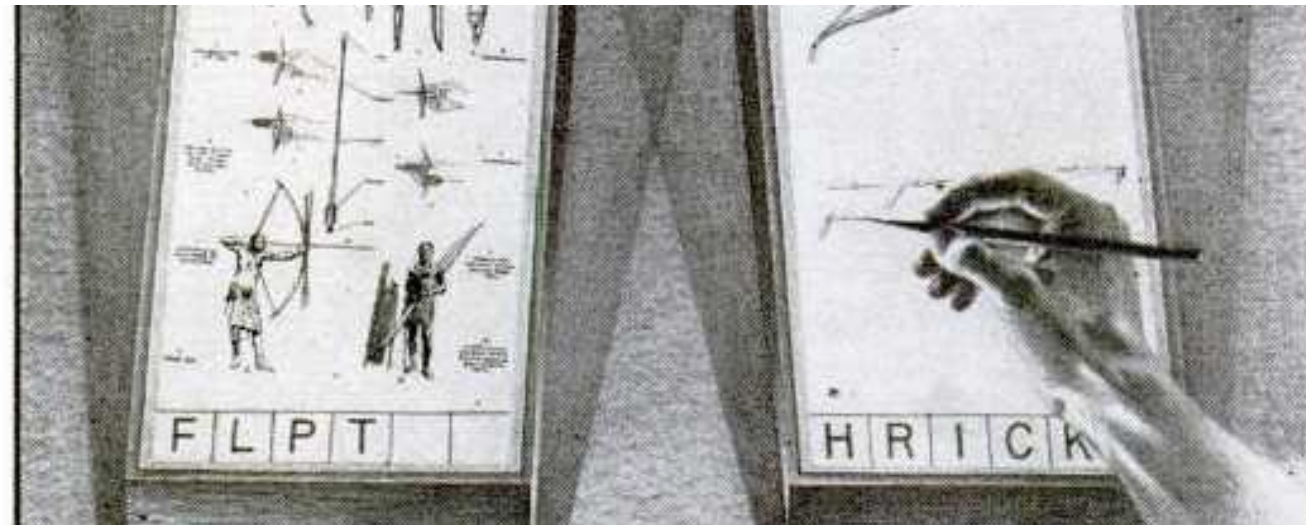


Human-Robot Interaction

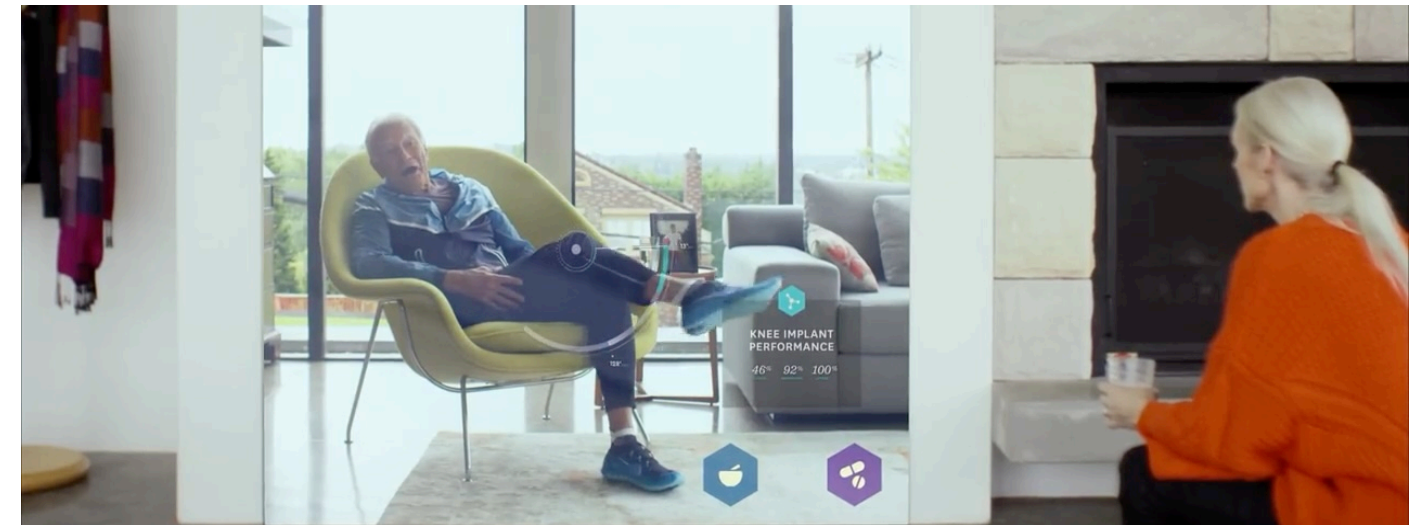


⁷Microsoft Office

1945 (Vannevar Bush)⁸



2015 (Microsoft)



⁸Wired, Microsoft

Questions?

HCI Research @ Wisconsin

CDIS [CS, *iSchool*]
Distributed [ISyE, EdPsych, Psych, ME]

HCI Research in CS

Bilge Mutlu



**HRI, human-AI
interaction, design
research**

Yuhang Zhao



AR/VR interfaces, accessibility

Michael Gleicher



**Information visualization,
graphics, HRI**

Michael Hagenow



**HRI, haptic interfaces,
shared control**

HCI Research at the iSchool

Corey Jackson



Citizen science, science engagement, online communities

Adam Rule



Medical informatics, health decision making, information visualization

Jacob Thebault-Spieker



Social computing, bias and fairness

Devansh Saxena



Human-AI interaction, AI innovation

Other HCI-related Research on Campus

John Lee (ISyE)



**AR/VR, automotive
interfaces, human-AI
interaction**

Paula Niedenthal (Psych)



**Affective human-machine
interaction**

Shamya Karumbaiah (Ed Psych)



Human-centered AI, learning

Michael Zinn (ME)



Haptic interfaces



Questions?

Course Outline

***What's the difference between 570, 571,
and 770?***

“...a discipline concerned with the design, evaluation and implementation of interactive computing systems for human use and with the study of major phenomena surrounding them.”

—ACM

“...a discipline concerned with (**570**, **571**) [the design, evaluation and implementation of interactive computing systems for human use] and with (**770**) [the study of major phenomena surrounding them].”

—ACM

770

- Research methods
- For grads from across campus
- Project-based
- No technical background

570

- Design methods
- For undergrads
- Project-based
- No technical background

571

- Design/building methods
- For CS undergrads
- Assignment-based
- Needs at least CS-400 & JS

Let's focus on 770

Learning Goals

1. Define research questions, construct hypotheses, map out and identify gaps in the research literature, and situate research questions and hypotheses in existing knowledge
2. Gain familiarity with seminal research across various topics in human-computer interaction
3. Determine the research approach that best fits a research question, identify variables of interest for empirical investigation, and design qualitative, quantitative, and hybrid studies

1. Determine appropriate objective, behavioral, physiological, subjective, and composite measures for empirical investigation
2. Design survey questions, construct scales, and assess reliability and validity
3. Analyze qualitative and quantitative data using grounded theory and statistical methods
4. Carry out a project to investigate an original research question in human-computer interaction
5. Write an academic paper to report on research design and findings

Setting Expectations

1. Be prepared to read a lot 1–3 papers + 1 book chapter each week
2. This class will take about 10-15 hours/week (university guidelines require a *minimum* of 9 hours for 3-credit courses, and that's for undergraduates)
3. A substantial semester-long project where you will work with others
4. Be prepared to engage in discussion; expect a lot of interactivity

AI Use

I strongly support building a strong AI toolbox and using it for your work for class. However, but build *good habits*. A way to think about it...

Deliberative Activities

- Learning, growth
- Entertainment
- Sharing, connection-making

Consequential Activities

- Search for information
- Make calculations for a problem
- Check for spelling

Appopriate Uses of AI

- *Supporting* deliberative activities
 - Questioning concepts
 - Critically analyzing your work
 - Collaborative ideation
- *Replacing* consequential activities
 - Check for spelling

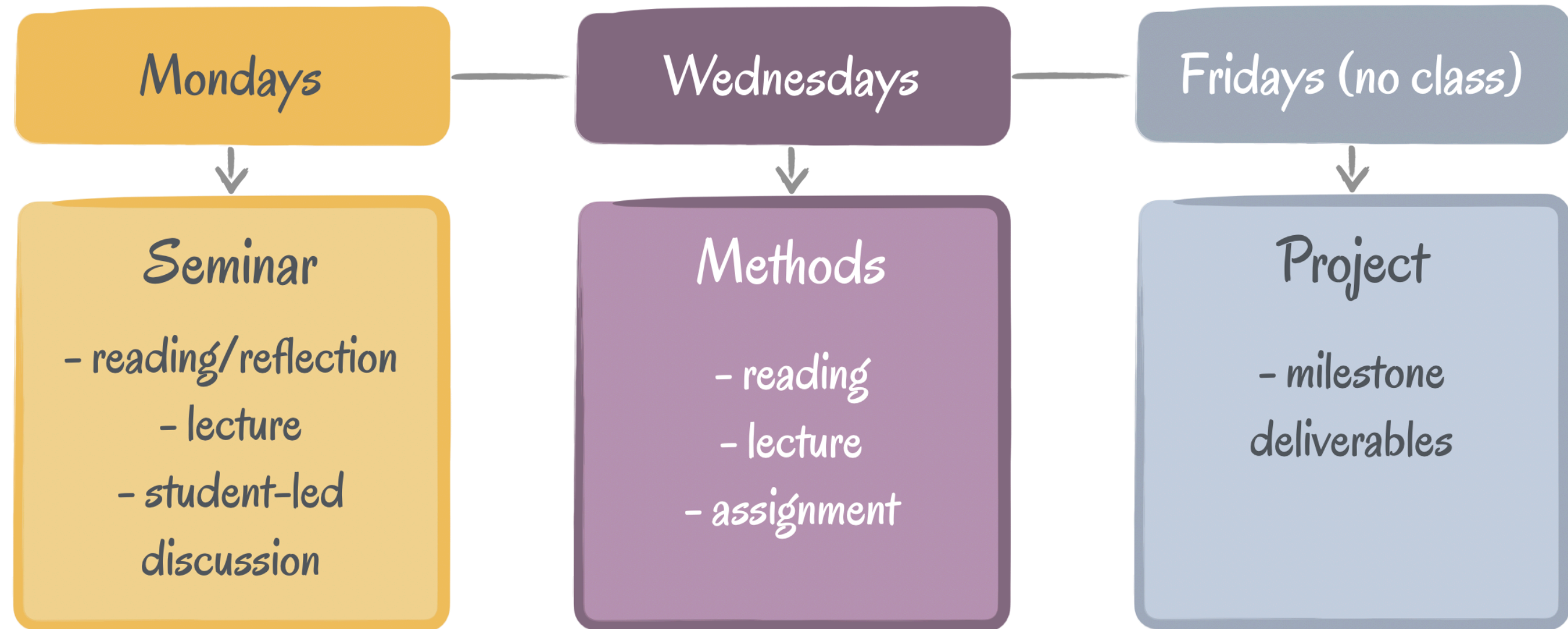
Inappropriate Uses of AI

- *Replacing* deliberative activities
 - Reading a paper on your behalf
 - Writing content for assignments, project
- *Not replacing* consequential activities

Questions?

Overview of Syllabus

Three modules



Module 1: Seminar

General Outline⁹

We will read seminal papers, discuss them online and in class.

- You will read 1–2 papers per week and will find 1 resource (an academic paper, popular science article, a video) yourself
- First 45 minutes of Tuesday class
- I will give a 30-minute overview of the topic and lead a 30-minute in-class

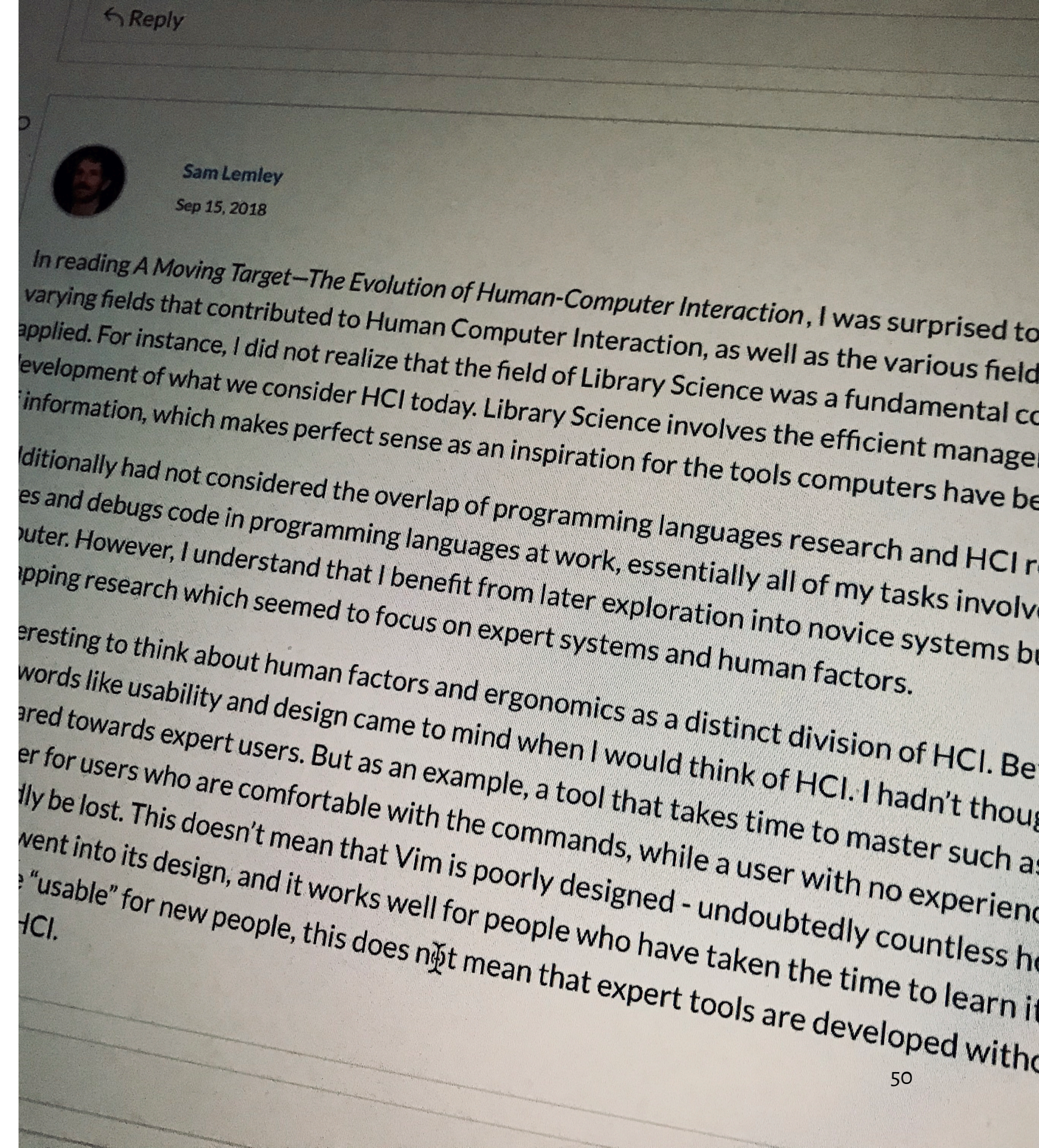
⁹Image source



Online Discussion

Reflect on the topic

- **Read:** Skim all of the assigned papers for the week and read at least one paper in depth.
- **Create:** Prepare a single slide with one of the following approaches:
 - Provocation
 - Critical Artifact
 - Policy or Design Recommendation



Classroom Discussion

At Monday's class:

- Short (~30 min) introduction to the topic.
- A few slides will be randomly selected. If your slide is chosen, you will use it to lead about 5-10 minutes of class discussion.
- Alternate between classroom and group discussion formats

We'll review the process on Monday.

Why are we doing this?

- **Dialectics** — through discussion, we establish common themes/concerns/ground
- **Reflection** — you rarely get the chance to engage in open-ended discussion on research topics
- **Trivium** — you will get the grammar (language), logic (mechanics), and rhetoric (arguments) of a topic

Module 2: Methods

General Outline¹⁰

We will learn about HCI research methods through lectures and hands-on-activities.

- Every week, a new research method is presented
- Reading a chapter from the textbook (necessary for the assignment)
- Lecture/tutorial for ~45 minutes
- Start weekly assignment that will be due the following week

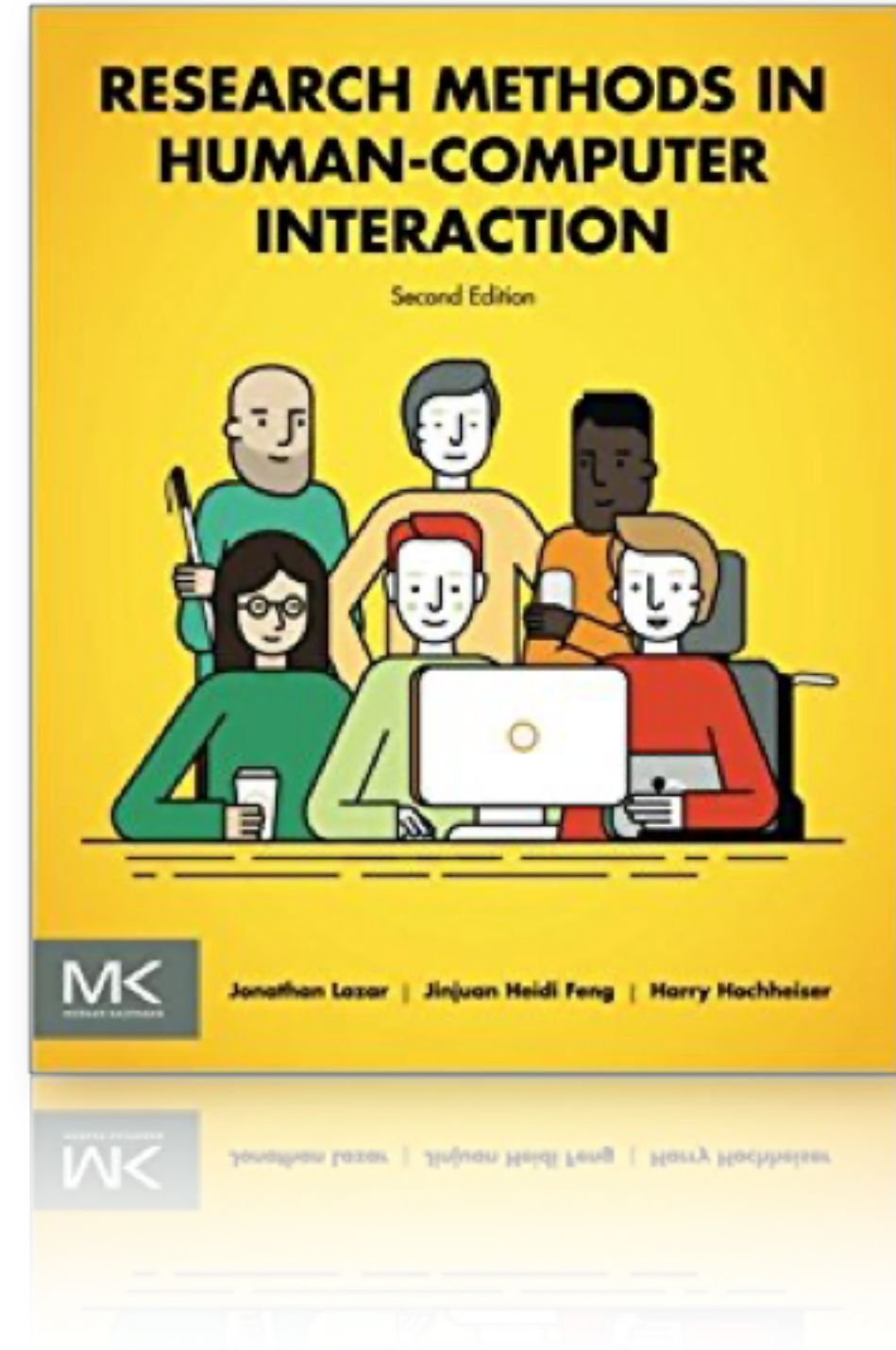
¹⁰ Image source



Textbook

Research Methods in Human-Computer Interaction, *Second Edition*, Lazar et al., 2017

Free through the University Library



Why are we doing this?

- **Learning**—you will learn a sample of all of the major methods and tools used in HCI research
- **Practice**—you will practice some of the critical ones in structured, guided ways

Module 3: Project

General Outline

We will carry out a semester-long research project where you will connect and practice the **seminar** and **methods** modules.

- ~3-student teams
- We will use the last 15 minutes of class on Mondays and/or Wednesdays to discuss project goals, steps, deliverables
- Feedback during office hours, through deliverables
- Expectations will differ based on the number of group members

Project Deliverable

- We will incrementally write a ~8-page paper in the ACM SigCHI format, potentially submittable to an HCI conference.
- The project should include both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Project Topics

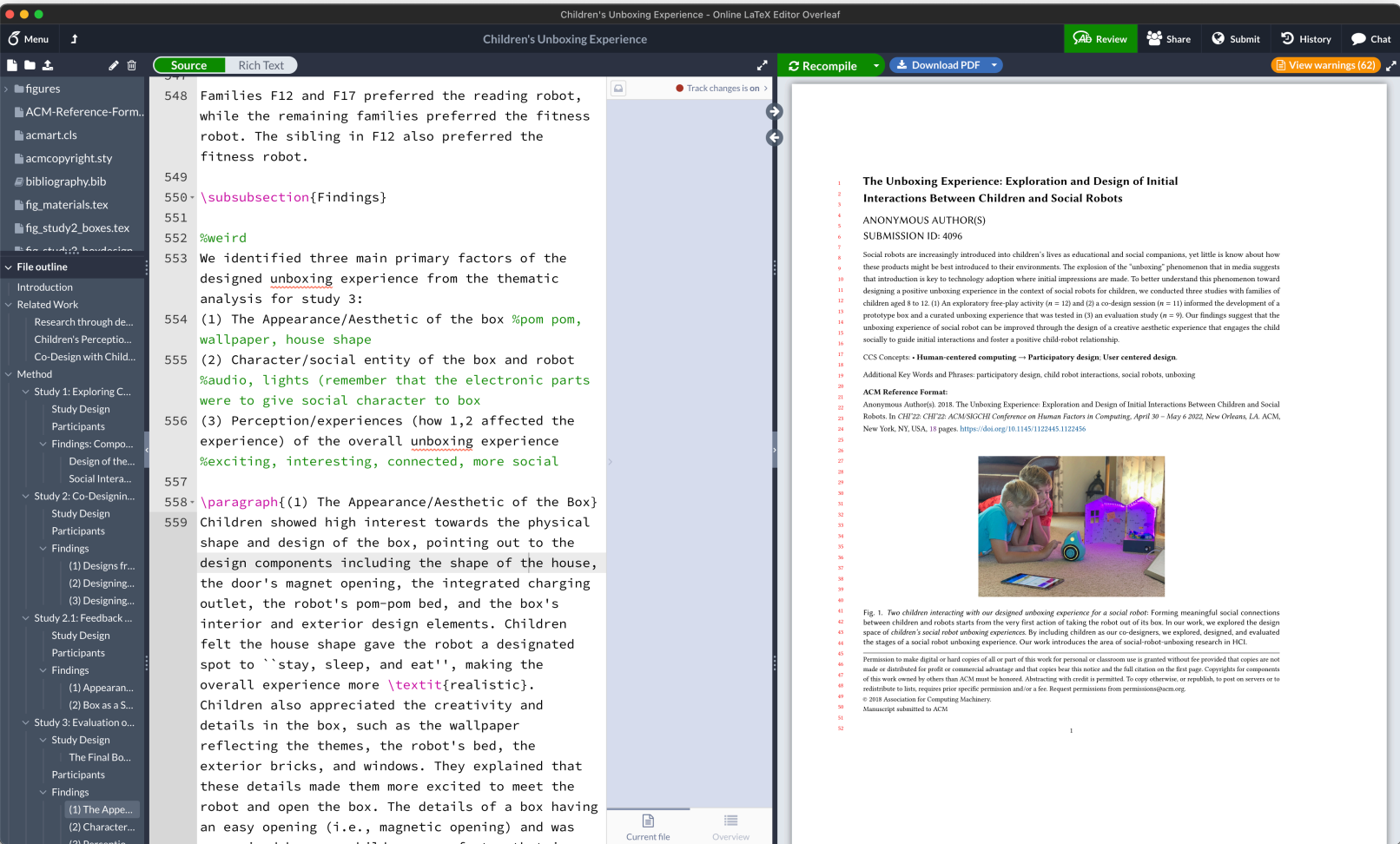
Take inspiration from CHI 2025 paper-award winners using the algorithm:

1. Skim a set of papers
2. Focus on 2-3 based on interest/research style
3. Read related work to understand gap
4. Read what the paper did to understand where it fits
5. Determine what else remains unexplored from limitations
6. Zoom out, choose topic, find partners

Project Deliverables¹¹

- Project Topic
- Literature survey, RQs
- Method
- Data
- Analysis, results
- Final paper

¹¹ Image source



Why are we doing this?

- Practicing research in an uncontrolled, unstructured, long period
- Bridging the seminar and the methods, contextualizing the methods within the seminar topics

Questions?

Course Policies

Grading

Assessments	Points
Seminar: Participation in online discussions	15
Methods: Hands-on activities	30
Project	30
Final presentation & Paper	20
General: Attendance, participation	5
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

Letter grade	Grade range	Description
A	93.5–100	Excellent work (<i>Exceeds expectations</i>)
AB	89.5–93.4	Good work (<i>Robustly meets all stated requirements</i>)
B	83.5–89.4	Adequate work (<i>Meets the spirit of all stated requirements</i>)
BC	79.5–83.4	Slightly below adequate (<i>Missing small required elements or turned in late without approved extension</i>)
C	73.5–79.4	Below adequate (<i>Missing required elements or turned in late without approved extension</i>)
D	73.4–63.5	Well below adequate (<i>Missing many required elements or turned in late without approved extension</i>)
F	63.5	Inadequate (<i>Work not turned in, no extension requested</i>)

Rule of Thumb: If you complete every assignment, you should be getting an **A** or an **AB**. So, just come to class, do the work, and don't worry about your grade.

Communication

Type	Examples	Channel
Question about course content	"R is giving me a singularity error;" "Should we be turning in our data file?"	Post on Piazza
Personal questions	"I am traveling to a conference on <date>;" "I have to travel to my home country because of an emergency!"	Send message to me/TA via email
Feedback request	"Can we get feedback on our study design;" "Can you check if I'm doing this analysis right?"	Office hours + appointment

During Class

Laptops/tablets: Laptop and tablet use is encouraged for the ongoing class and discouraged for anything else:

— Engaging in Piazza; looking through readings, slides; researching

Phones: Should be put away.

In general, please strive to **be present**.

Late, Absence Policy

Late assignments: The class follows a student-friendly “late days bank” model. You have a total of 3 late days that can be used across all deliverables.

Each project group will have **one grace day** for your assignment across the semester (Five project assignments in total; cannot be used for the final paper submission).

Missing class: $E[m] = 3$, $m = \{0, 1, \dots, 29\}$, so we will discount two absences from classroom discussion/initial assignment work.

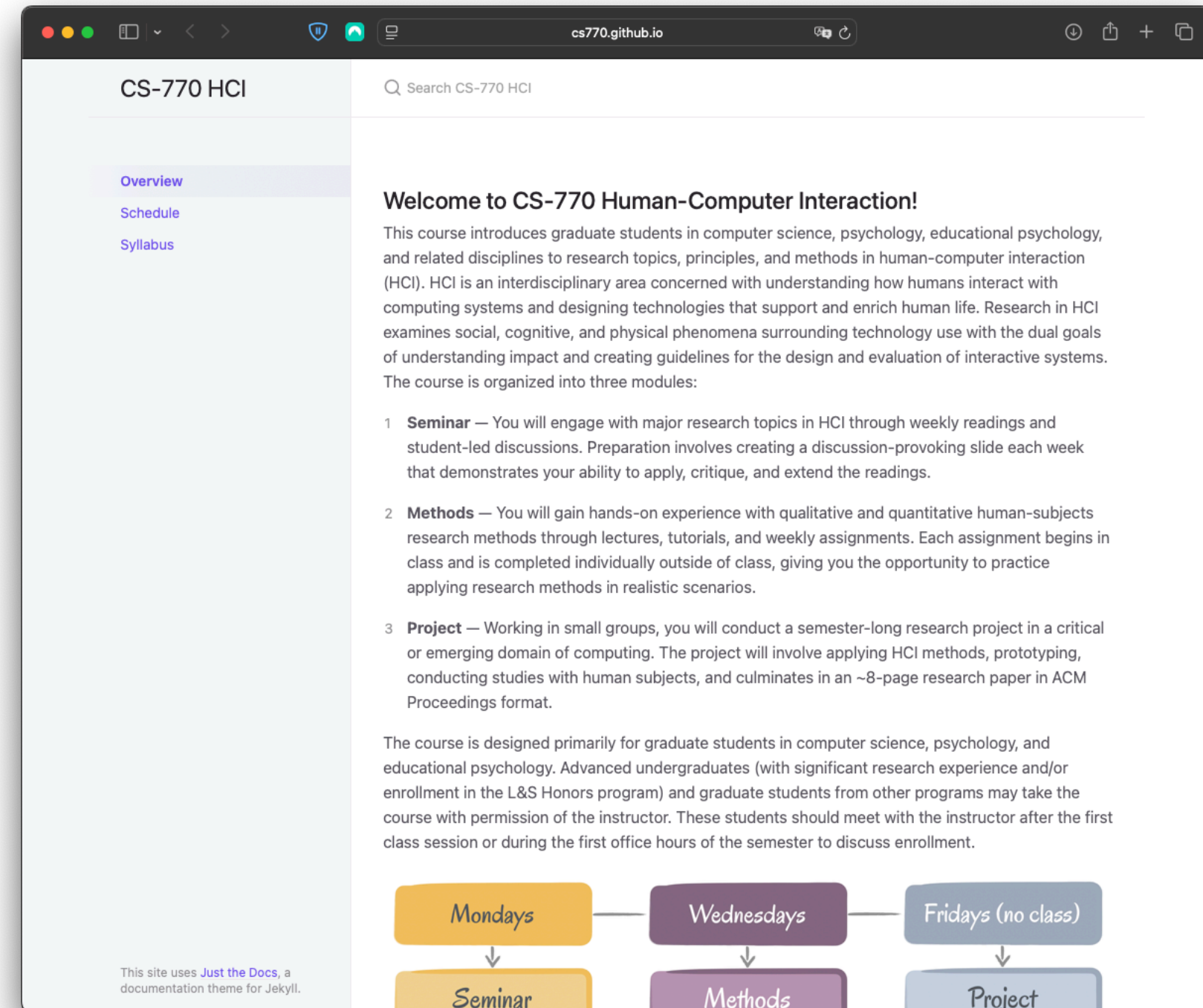
Logistics

— Course Website | Course Canvas

Office Hours

— **Instructor:** Monday 2:15-3:00 pm, CS 2513

— **TA:** Mondays 2:30 - 3:30pm — Zoom
(👉 press link to connect) |
Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm —
Morgridge 2513



Enrollment

- Classroom has 75 seats
- Enrollment (as of this morning): 75
- Waitlist: 35

My recommendation: attend class and see who drops by Monday. We can usually include $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of the waitlist by the time the roster settles.

Questions?

What's next?

- **Seminar:** *Readings* due on Monday; *submission* — due on Monday
- **Method:** *Chapter reading* — due on Wednesday
- **Project:** We'll discuss on Monday; *topic selection* — due Sep 9
- **Logistics:** Office hours will start next week