

Syllabus: APPLICATION OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES

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Instructor

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Virtual Office Hours by appointment via Zoom

Course description

Mobile phones (smartphones) are the most widespread and influential technology, with over 90% of the world's population having access to them. They are indispensable for communication, entertainment and productivity. Media companies today are prioritizing mobile-first strategies and apps, with Android being the leading operating system. This course explores the evolution of mobile devices and their impact on media. Students will develop Android apps and learn strategies for building sustainable mobile media businesses.

Note: The MIT App Inventor companion app for iOS is now generally available on the Apple App Store.

Student goals for the course:

Students who finish Application of Mobile Technologies course should be able to:

- Use mobile phones for shooting, editing and reporting
- Understand how mobile phones are transforming the media business
- Have working knowledge of MIT App Inventor 2
- Produce simple apps for Android platform
- Understand mobile business and business models,
- Be beginner entrepreneurs in the mobile industry.

The course is taught 100% online, with a mixture of readings, tutorials, discussions, and exercises. The online lectures and tutorials are intended to promote general knowledge of multimedia practices and tools. The discussions and exercises are to reinforce concepts presented and to test your ability to apply the concepts to actual problems. All course sessions, office hours and other material will

be available to you online only-- there are no class meetings or proctored exams for this course.

Prerequisites

Computer and operating system: Macintosh (with Intel processor): Mac OS X 10.5 or higher; Windows: Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7; GNU/Linux: Ubuntu 8 or higher, Debian 5 or higher; *Smartphone* which can record audio clips, shoot videos and capture photos.

Outline

Modules will be released weekly, including discussions or assignments within the appropriate learning modules. In order to give you a sense of what you will be learning in this course, here is a list of modules with general information about each:

- Intro to cell phones, smartphones and tablets
- Mobile media and news industry
- Mobile newsgathering
- Introduction to MIT App inventor 2
- My first app / Media
- Game apps
- Geo location apps
- User generated apps
- Web enabled apps
- Debugging
- Usability of apps
- Planning and designing apps
- Packaging and publishing on Google market
- Future

Assignments and grading:

Course Points

The course consists of 14 modules, each on a different topic. Each module contains some combination of discussions and assignments, all of which must be completed by the due date for the entire module.

Discussion	30 points each, 6 in all, will drop the lowest (excluding missed assignments)	150 points
Assignment	50 points each, 11 in all, will drop the two lowest	450 points

	(excluding missed assignments)	
TOTAL POINTS:		600 points

Grading Individual Assignments

We will grade the discussion posts based on the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of your responses. Remember to keep within any word limits given in the individual discussion assignments. The instructor will grade your lab assignments. Remember that this is a large course and some of the labs will take quite a while to grade. I will try my best to have assignments graded within one week of submission, but I cannot guarantee this. DO NOT send me e-mails asking when a grade will be posted-- it will only annoy me! Please help keep your instructors happy and sane... it benefits everyone!

Working Together

You are welcome to work with a group of friends or colleagues on your discussions, and assignments for this class. In fact, you will probably find it both enjoyable and productive to do so. Keep in mind, however, that everyone must do original work for the course. There will be no sharing of media files! Feel free to use the Water Cooler discussion board to find study buddies, arrange group study sessions, and more.

Final Course Grades

You can calculate your grade at any time in the course by adding up the points you have already received and calculating what percentage of possible points it is. For your final grade, I will drop the lowest discussion and the two lowest assignment grades, and calculate the total points received. Final grades will be determined as follows:

A	94-100%	564 - 600 points
A-	90-93.99%	540 - 563 points
B+	86-89.99%	516 - 539 points
B	83-85.99%	498 - 515 points
B-	80-82.99%	480 - 497 points
C+	76-79.99%	456 - 479 points
C	73-75.99%	438 - 455 points
C-	70-72.99%	420 - 437 points
D+	66-69.99%	396 - 419 points

D	63-65.99%	378 - 395 points
D-	60-62.99%	360 - 377 points
E	59.99% or below	359 points or less

Critical Dates

Module	Released at 5 PM	Assignments due by 11:55 PM	List of Assignments
Course Handbook	1/1/2025	-	-
Module 1	1/13/2025	1/21/2025	Practice Discussion, Lab 1: Codes
Module 2	1/21/2025	1/27/2025	Lab 2: News Apps; Discussion 1: Going mobile
Module 3	1/27/2025	2/3/2025	Lab 3: Video; Discussion 2: Reporting Apps
Module 4	2/3/2025	2/10/2025	Lab 4: MIT App Inventor 2
Module 5	2/10/2025	2/17/2025	Lab 5: Personalizing App
Module 6	2/17/2025	2/24/2025	Lab 6: Game App
Module 7	2/24/2025	3/3/2025	Lab 7: Map App
Module 8	3/3/2025	3/10/2025	Lab 8: Camera App
Module 9	3/10/2025	3/24/2025	Lab 9: Web data App
Module 10	3/24/2025	3/31/2025	Discussion 3: Debugging
Module 11	3/31/2025	4/7/2025	Discussion 4: Usability
Module 12	4/7/2025	4/14/2025	Lab 10: Wireframe; Discussion 5: Planning
Module 13	4/7/2025	4/18/2025	Lab 11: Application Information
Module 14	4/7/2025	4/21/2025	Discussion 6: Future

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

The Honor Code

By enrolling in this course student agree to follow the UF Honor Code:

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." For more information, please see the Student Honor

Code:<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and would like to request disability-related accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565.

Once you have a Letter of Accommodation, please make an appointment with me (by sending an e-mail through the E-Learning Mail system) so that we can go over the letter and discuss your accommodations in the course.

Diversity Statement

The University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications Department of Telecommunications embraces a commitment toward an intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion.

Furthermore, I consider this online course to be a place where you will be treated with respect. I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class.

Online evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.