CS455 GUI Design and Implementation
Usability Assignment

In this project you will carry out a usability study on an existing interface. You will

• Write a proposal for the study which details
    A. The user population for the interface including diversity issues.
    B. A discussion and comparison of appropriate testing methods for the interface.
    C. A proposal to carry out two of the methods.

• Carry out the proposed usability tests
    D. Testing results

• Write a report that that details the testing results and recommendations that follow
    E. Usability report

Your final report will have parts A through E. Initially you will hand in A-C to get approval for the proposed testing methods.

The intent of this assignment is to write a complete usability report as you might for a client as a consultant (or as you might at work for a current project.) In tone and style write as you were writing for your current supervisor or co-workers.

Given time constraints of a semester course, though, the intent is for you to carry out small scale tests with 1-2 participants, rather than full tests with many users. Better have one thorough test than several sloppy ones. In your design you may set a number of user that you'd like to observe or survey, but in your actual tests come short of this.

In requesting you use two methods of testing, the intent is to use a least one based on user observation and a second one that be expert or survey based.

Grading of the assignment will be based on:
1. Thoroughness in analyzing the user population and the breadth of possible methods.
2. Care in proposing and designing the tests, with particular attention to what you are trying to measure and how the tests get at those measures.
3. Care in carrying out and documenting the tests.
4. A well-written and analyzed report.

Due dates:
March 29th, initial proposal
April 5th, revised proposal
May 3rd, final report