HCI Capstone: Difficult Conversations 2.0

Human interaction can be difficult for all sorts of reasons: because people don't understand what others are talking about, because people aren't paying attention, or because they actually disagree. Interacting at a distance has benefits, but technology also poses a raft of problems, including magnifying the problems of knowing whether someone else is listening and understanding.

This project-based class will draw upon the nature of human interaction, and the long history of HCI work in the area to design and implement projects that connect people in different ways. The focus will be on discovering the barriers and promoting depth in interaction in the era of mediated communication. We will explore how technology can amplify, hide, and distort relationships — and what can be done to address these problems.

The class will involve self-study and studying online interaction as well as focused project development. Platform choice will be at the discretion of student teams with permission of instructor.

Each student will be responsible for leading a seminar discussion as well as participating in developing a semester long HCI project that addresses a problem of "difficult conversation".

If you have questions or are from outside Computer Science, contact Steve Harrison srh@cs.vt.edu

Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in CS 3724 and CS 3744.

This class builds on the topic as developed in CS 4784 in the Fall 2020.