

## **CS 5984 Personal Information Management**

### **Manuel A. Pérez-Quñones**

This course studies the field of Personal Information Management (PIM). PIM is the study of how individuals organize information on a daily basis. This has traditionally included to do lists, calendar, email, address books, and file management. It has recently been extended to include web-based information management and the use of personal digital assistants like Palm/Pocket PCs, MP3 players, and cellphones. The course will focus on usability issues in the design and use of many of these tools. Some of the domains mentioned above have been extensively researched, but others have not. Some of the topics discussed include:

- Information organization – finding vs refinding information; cognitive issues in information classification and organization
- Human Memory Issues – remembering information seen; organizing information for prospective remembering; use of alerts to aid memory
- Task continuity – what are the issues in moving personal information from one platform to another; what software architectures support such information access; what are the human factors that affect these issues
- Mental Models – do people think of their information in a form that is independent of the device that is used to access it?
- Technology – languages, operating systems, user interfaces, and development environments for building user interfaces for many of these systems; how much programming can be shared across these tools

This course is offered at the graduate level, thus the emphasis is placed on group projects and literature discussions.

Students will be evaluated with the following instruments:

1. midterm and final exams, both individual work
2. weekly reading assignments and in class discussions of literature
3. semester long group project with the following milestones
  - a. literature review
  - b. project design
  - c. project implementation
  - d. in-class presentation
  - e. written report
  - f. peer evaluations