

Course Syllabus

Advanced Human Factors I
Psychology 617 (56-6170)

Human Factors Seminar I
Psychology 416 (56-4160)

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Fall term, 1990-91

Instructor
Michael S. Wogalter
Carnegie Hall 305c
Office: 276-8513
Home: 273-8157

Class Meetings
Mondays
1:00 - 3:50 P.M.
West Hall 213

Office Hours
Mondays and Wednesdays
5:05 - 5:50 P.M.
Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:00 P.M.
Thursday 6:05 - 7:15 P.M.
or by appointment

Prerequisites

This seminar is the first of the required two-course sequence in the Human Factors graduate program in RPI's Department of Psychology. The seminar is also open to advanced undergraduate students who have already taken the prerequisite course Human Factors in Design (56-220). The exception to this rule is that psychology majors who have already taken 3 or more courses in the Department or have taken the Experimental Methods and Statistics course may be admitted with permission of the instructor. There are no other exceptions.

Course Objectives

The aim of the seminar is to examine the relationship between people and various aspects of the world around them. The topics to be explored will include safety, work-related anthropometry, instructions and warnings, noise, stress, and forensic issues. This is not a lecture course. The instructor will not be giving regular lectures. Rather this course is seminar in which the class participates in active discussion. Each student will be assigned two sets of readings and asked to lead the class in discussion of the assigned topic. Leaders will summarize the articles in 10-12 minutes. Discussion by classmates will follow.

Readings

The basis of the seminar is the reading of journal articles and various book chapters. Some of the readings will be taken from the book:

Sanders, M. S., & McCormick, E. J. (1987). Human Factors in Engineering and Design (6th ed). New York: McGraw-Hill.

This book is recommended, but not required. This is a good sourcebook to own if you have any intentions of doing subsequent work in Human Factors.

It is the responsibility of the class leaders to make sure that the readings are placed on reserve within 2 weeks of the start of the course. In cases where materials are not available in the library, leaders must be order them through interlibrary loan (reference desk in Folsom).

Course Requirements

Class participation

Because of the nature of the course, i.e., a seminar, your participation in class is essential. You should be prepared to speak up and add to each meeting's discussion. Class participation will be worth

