General requirements of the HCI course assignments

1. Course objectives

The course gives general overview knowledge and skills necessary for designing and evaluating interactive information systems, centered on their users. In order to achieve this, students should come away with an understanding of:

- how to analyze and specify the context of use, user and task characteristics,
- usability objectives,
- mockup and prototype design,
- usability evaluations and evaluation reports,
- work according to formal requirements,
- how to work together on a team project and to communicate the results of work, both in oral and written form.

2. Performing the assignments

Assignments are performed in teams of 3–4 students. Each student will contribute to an analysis, design and usability evaluations, which will be documented with both a written report and an oral presentation to the class. During the semester students perform 1 homework and 5 assignments (dates shown are the week the item is due):

1. User needs (6th week)
2. Mockups (8th week)
3. Analytical evaluations (10th week)
4. Prototype (12th week)
5. Usability testing (15th week)

Written assignments are due at the start of the class and should be sent as .doc, .docx, .odt or .pdf documents to the following address: kristina.lapin@mif.vu.lt.

The mail subject should contain number of assignment and the project short project title. The letter should contain the team members who participated in the work and attached assignments. The file title should contain the number and short title of the assignment as well as project short title, the assignment title, for example: *1 User needs CarBuddy.*

Assignments are presented orally, the presentation should take 15–25 min.

3. Grading

Grading will be determined by project assignments (50%), final exam (40%), answers to minitests (5%) and peer reviews (5%).

Each team member is expected to participate **in at least 3 presentations**. Each additional absence will reduce the grade by 10%. For the late assignments grade will be reduced: for 2 weeks by 10%, for 3 and more weeks by 20%.

4. The assignment structure

The assignment consists of the following:

- Title page *(not numbered)*,
- Summary and contributors *(not numbered)*,
- Table of contents *(not numbered)*,
- Introduction *(numbered)*
- Main part *(numbered)*,
- Appendix B: Brief Bio,
- Appendix A: Glossary *(for more than 5 concepts)*.

Title page consists of:

- Name of university and faculty,
- Project full title,
- Title of the assignment,
- Team members' names and surnames,
- Year.

Summary contains the objective and brief description of the performed work as well ase ach team member contribution and e-mail.

Introduction comprises the following subsections:

- Project titles
- Problem description
- Target user group
- Used documents

Project titles. Project must have *two* titles: full (e.g. "Vilnius University Library App") and short (e.g. "Library"). Full title is used on the title page and in this section, short serves as a project references in the document texts and sending the assignments.

Problem description should be short and specific about the high-level goals of the project. The problem should be described in terms of user activities and situations where the problem occurs, and what aspects of the situation might be improved with a technical solution. Avoid describing or suggesting a solution at this stage that will hamper your design thinking when you actually start solving the problem.

Target user group should be sensible (people you have access to). Describe the user group in enough detail that you can easily separate the group from other types of people. Then include details about their needs and wants.

The subsection *Used documents* the references of the documents that were used are listed.

Main part is outlined in specific assignment descriptions.

Section numbering: Headings of introduction and main part sections are numbered strictly hierarchically. The sections have assigned numbers, such as 1., subsections – 1.1., 1.2, subsubsection – 1.1.1., 1.1.2. and so on.

Appendix A: Brief biographies. Write a one paragraph bio that tells a little bit about yourself and describes your previous experience as it relates to this class, among others as earned certificates, your home university, study program, participation in projects.

Appendix B: Glossary. Describe the concepts that are not defined in standards or are used in specific meaning in this projects.