Zarqa University
Faculty: Information Technology
Department: Software Engineering
Course title: Software Documentation
(1503374)

Instructor:
Lecture's time:
Semester:
Office Hours:

Course description:

This course aims to introduce the student to fundamental concepts of software documentation, the task orientation process and how you break the project to small tasks and how to construct a task list from a project. This course also explain the forms of software documentation such Tutorials, procedures and references. Finally the course introduces the student to the process of software documentation, from user analysis thru editing and fine tuning.

Aims of the course:

The course introduces

1- Provide the student with a broad perspective on software documentation

2- Explain the task orientation process and how you break the project to small tasks, and how to construct a task list from a project.

3- Explain the forms of software documentation such tutorials, procedures and references.

4- Explain the process of software documentation, from user analysis thru editing and fine tuning.

5- Explain the tools of software documentation, by the tools here we mean that the elements we used in creating the documentation such as screen and page design and the elements of each and the psychology of these elements, and how to build the best document to fit all type of users.

Intended Learning Outcomes: (ILOs)

A. Knowledge and Understanding

A1.ConceptsandTheories:
Should be able to know basic terms associated with system, project and task orientation.

A2.Contemporary Trends, Problems and Research:
Should be able to understand the type of users and the psychological differences between them.
Should be able to construct a task list for a project.

A3.Professional Responsibility:
Should be able to learn the type of documents we produce and the kind of users they use such document.

B. Subject-specific skills

B1. Problem solving skills:
Learn how to use the methods and techniques to write document.
Should be able to differentiate between the different types of each document and the kind of elements that compose the document.

B2.ModelingandDesign:
Should be able to understand the user analysis, planning interviews, and learn the rules when interviewing users.

B3.ApplicationofMethodsandTools:
Understand how to start the project, and set up plan for that

C. Critical-Thinking Skills

C1.Analytic skills: Assess

Understand the importance of reviews, testing, and editing. The rules for each of them and how you schedule them and with whom.

C2.Strategic Thinking:

Understand and create a table of contents and match the user analysis with the document design

C3.Creative thinking and innovation:

An idea to make the creativity and modern solution

Create a thumbnail sketch as the first step of laying out pages and screens.

Understand the importance the "getting the language right" on   the document usability and acceptance by the user.

Introduce graphics to the document and understand the effectiveness of graphics on the document

Understand the build indexes for the document and why index

D.   General and Transferable Skills (other skills relevant to employability and personal development)

D1. Communication:

How to be more communicate with each other

D2.Teamwork and Leadership:

Discuss and work in a group in order to study several cases, each of which has issues affecting the software documentation in common.

Course structures:

Week	Credit Hours	ILOs	Topics	Teaching Procedure	Assessment methods
1	3	A1,A3	**Chapter 1:Introduction** • Course Introduction • Understanding task orientation • Constructing a Task List. • Understanding the characteristics of tasks	Presentation methods and techniques, Sources of information and Instructional Aids	Diagnostic tests to identify the students level and areas of weakness Formal (stage) evaluation according to class Participation
2	3	B	**Chapter2**: **Writing to Teach- Tutorials** Learn how to write tutorial and its kind of users when we use such document.	Presentation methods and techniques, Sources of information and Instructional Aids	Diagnostic tests to identify the students level and areas of weakness Formal (stage) evaluation according to class Participation
3	3	B	**Chapter3: Writing to Guide - Procedures** How to write procedures and its kind of users when we use such document.	Presentation methods and techniques, Sources of information and Instructional Aids	Diagnostic tests to identify the students level and areas of weakness Formal (stage) evaluation according to class Participation
4	3	B	**Chapter4:Writing to Support - References**	Presentation methods and techniques, Sources of	Diagnostic tests to identify the students level and areas of weakness

			How to write references and it's kind of users when we use such document	information and Instructional Aids	Formal (stage) evaluation according to class Participation
5	3	B3,C	**Chapter5:Analyzing Your user**	Lab Practical using case tools	Diagnostic tests to identify the students level and areas of weakness Formal (stage) evaluation according to class Participation
6	3	B3,C,D	**Chapter6:Planning and Writing your documentation**	Presentation methods and techniques, Sources of information and Instructional Aids	
7	3	C1,C2,D	**Chapter7:Getting Useful reviews**	Presentation methods and techniques, Sources of information and Instructional Aids	Diagnostic tests to identify the students level and areas of weakness Formal (stage) evaluation according to class Participation
8	3	C3	**Chapter8: Conducting usability tests**		
9	3	C,D	**Chapter9:Editing and Fine Tuning**		
10	3	C,D	**Chapter10:Designing for task orientation**		
11 12	3	C	**Chapter 11: Laying out Pages and Screens** **Chapter 12:Getting the Language Right**		**First Exam**
12	3	C	**Chapter 13: Using Graphics Effectively**		
13	3	C	**Chapter 14: Designing Indexes and Searches**		**Second Exam**
14	3	D	**Project presentation**		
15th					**Final Exam**

References:

A. Main Textbook:

Writing Software Documentation, 2nd edition, Thomas T. Barker**,** Longman Publishers, 2004

B. Supplementary Textbook(s):

Assessment Methods:

Methods	Grade	Date
First Exam	20%	
Second Exam	20%	
Assignments (Reports /Quizzes/ Seminar / Tutorials ….)	10%	
Final Examination	50%	

	Additional Notes	
Project	Presentation will be marked on the subject matter, professionalism, and Creativity. The project will be group of 3-4 (or more) students and **all** must participate in Both presentations, it is your responsibility to select the group and coordinate The effort and presentations of the project. Both phases must submitted **on or before** the **due date** and presented by the group	
Exams	• Makeup exam should not be given unless there is a valid excuse. • Arrangements to take an exam at a time different than the one scheduled MUST be made prior to the scheduled exam time.	
Cheating	• Cheating or copying from neighbor on exam, quiz, or project is an illegal and unethical activity, it will lead you to fail the course, JUST standards and regulations will be applied.	