Dr. Kirk St. Amant
Professor and Eunice C. Williamson Endowed Chair of Technical Communication
School of Literatures and Languages
Louisiana Tech University

**Usability in Health and Medical Contexts**

Monday, November 11, 2019
Reception with refreshments: 10:30 a.m.
Lecture: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Morgan Library Event Hall

Examing Usability in International Health and Medical Contexts

Monday, November 11, 2019
Lecture: 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Clark A 202

Sponsored by
Colorado State University’s Information Science and Technology Center (ISTeC)
In conjunction with the Department of English, Department of Computer Science and Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Seminar Series

**Abstracts**

**Usability in Health and Medical Contexts**

In health and medical contexts, effective materials are those individuals can use easily and successfully. The process of designing materials to facilitate use is known as “usability.” Achieving it requires addressing who will use materials, when, where, and how. Each competency is difficult to quantify, but many are essential to creating products that meet audience expectations and needs.

In this presentation, the speaker introduces attendees to what usability entails and how it can enhance the design of materials that different audiences—patients to physicians—use in health and medical contexts. The speaker will present strategies for researching the usability-related expectations of different audiences and in order to design effective (i.e., usable) materials for them. Attendees will learn basic concepts of what usability is as well as learn foundational research and design practices for creating usable health and medical materials for different audiences.

**Examining Usability in International Health and Medical Contexts**

In health and medical contexts, effective materials are those individuals can use easily and successfully. The process of designing materials to facilitate use is known as “usability.” Achieving it involves addressing who will use materials, when, where, and how. Such competencies are difficult to quantify, but many are essential to creating products that meet audience expectations and needs.

In this presentation, the speaker addresses how such factors can affect usability and design factors in different cultural and national health and medical contexts around the world. In covering these topics, the presentation will discuss issues for researching the usability-related expectations of different audiences—both locally and internationally—interacting in health and medical settings in order to design effective (i.e., usable) materials for them.

Attendees will learn how to apply concepts of usability to materials designed for use in different health and medical settings, both here and internationally. Attendees will also learn about the technologies and design practices for creating usable health and medical materials for different audiences. The objective is to provide participants with the foundational knowledge necessary to identify and address expectations of usability according to different audiences using materials to access health and medical information or perform a health-related process.

**Speaker Biography**

Kirk St. Amant is the Eunice C. Williamson Chair in Technical Communication and a member of the Center for Biomedical Engineering and Rehabilitation Science (CBERS) at Louisiana Tech University. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Health and Medical Communication at the University of Limerick in Ireland, a Guest Professor of Usability Studies with Southeast University in China, and an Adjunct Professor of User Experience Design with the University of Maryland in Boston. Additionally, Kirk serves as a Research Professor with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for Design. Kirk’s research focuses on how cognitive processes affect the usability of technologies in health and medical contexts and in online education.

To arrange a meeting with the speaker, please contact Prof. Tim Amidon, Tim.Amidon@colostate.edu.

**Upcoming Distinguished Lectures**

December 2
11 a.m.-12 noon
Morgan Library Event Hall
Dr. Claudio Silva

**ISTeC (Information Science and Technology Center)** is a university-wide organization for promoting, facilitating, and enhancing CSU’s research, education, and outreach activities pertaining to the design and innovative application of computer, communication, and information systems. For more information please see ISTeC.ColoradoState.edu.