

## Distinguished Lectures Fall 2019



### 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**

### Examining 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 their use is known as "usability." Achieving it involves addressing who will use materials, when, where, and how. Such complexities can be difficult to identify, but they 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 – from patients to physicians – use in health and medical contexts. The speaker will present strategies for researching the usability-related expectations of different audiences 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 revising or 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 their use is known as "usability." Achieving it involves addressing who will use materials, when, where, and how. Such complexities can be difficult to identify, but they are essential to creating products that meet audience expectations and needs.

This presentation will examine what usability entails in health and medical settings and how it can enhance the design of materials that different audiences – from patients to physicians – use in health and medical contexts. The presenter will also review 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 presenter will discuss strategies 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 the local and the international. Attendees will also learn foundational research and design practices for revising or creating usable health and medical materials for different audiences. The objective is to provide participants with the foundational knowledge needed to identify and address expectations of usability according to different audiences using materials to access health and medical information or perform a health- or medical-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 with 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 Strasbourg in France. Additionally, Kirk serves as a Research Fellow with the U.S.-based non-profit Center for Assurance, Deterrence, Escalation, and Nonproliferation Science & Education (CADENSE) and as a Research Fellow/Expert in Residence with the Ghana-based non-profit African Centre for Science and International Security (AFRISIS). He researches 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](mailto:Tim.Amidon@colostate.edu).

## Upcoming Distinguished Lectures

**December 2**  
**Urban Data Science**  
**11 a.m.-12 noon**



**Morgan Library Event Hall**  
**Dr. Claudio Silva**