

# Fundamentals of People-Oriented Computing—2025

Instructor: Chat Wacharamanotham (to email, see OLAT) Office hours: <https://chatw.ch/h>

Course format: Lecture with in-class exercises

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory module for People-Oriented Computing. Students will gain learn knowledge and skills in individual and collaborative work, to work with scholarly literature, and to conduct scholarly discourses. They will learn concepts and processes from cognitive psychology and how to apply them to improve their thinking and work by themselves and with others.

Students will learn several conceptual frameworks that could help them understand and assess research contributions. They will learn about components and forms of arguments and critiques. This course will use the scholarly literature from various fields related to People-Oriented Computing.

## INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students understand concepts and processes in cognitive psychology and can articulate how these theories apply to work situations.
2. Students know conceptual frameworks for understanding and assessing research contributions.
3. Students can identify the primary contributions of research papers.
4. Students can assess the credibility of sources of scholarly publications.
5. Students can analyze scholarly arguments and assess their quality.
6. Students can synthesize knowledge from multiple readings.
7. Students can formulate and communicate constructive critiques in scholarly contexts.
8. Students can articulate the strengths and weaknesses of selected research methods.

## PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

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## WORKLOAD

6 ECTS = ~180 hours of work (including classes, assignments, reviews, mid-term exam, and discussion exam)

## ASSESSMENTS

20% Essay

50% Midterm written exam

30% Discussion exam

The essay assignment is due on Friday, 17 October, 11:00 AM. The rubric for the essay assignment is in the appendix.

The midterm exam will be on 7 November, 12:00-13:45 (room to be announced). The first part will be a single-choice exam with pen-and-paper, and the second part will be an essay on a word processing software (e.g., MS Word) on your own laptop. The second part will be monitored. You do not need to install additional software. The content of the exam is sampled from all lecture slides (except slides marked explicitly as not in the exam) and all reading homework. Use the Intended Learning Outcomes to guide your preparation. The second part will be assessed with the same rubric as the essay assignment.

The discussion exam will be in teams of around 6–7 members. (The exact number of members will be announced after week 4 of the course.) It will take place in one of the lecture slots after the

mid-term exam. The discussion exam will be assessed holistically with the following criteria: (1) Understanding of the materials, (2) Critical thinking and argumentation, (3) The mix of depth and breadth of the discussion. Each team will receive a team grade from the instructor, and it will be adjusted based on how team members rate each other's contributions<sup>1</sup>.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

Reading materials will be made available on [OLAT](#)<sup>2</sup>. There's no required textbook for this course.

## SEMESTER PLAN

Lectures are on Thursday 16:15–18:00 at BIN 0.K.02, and Friday 12:15–13:45 at BIN 1.B.01.

		Content	Hand-in due (11:00 AM)
Thu	Sep 18	Research contributions	
Fri	Sep 19	Seeking research knowledge	
Thu	Sep 25	Argument structure	
Fri	Sep 26	Argument quality	
Thu	Oct 2	Writing process	
Fri	Oct 3	— — No class — —	Training essay**
Thu	Oct 9	Research methods	
Fri	Oct 10	Scholarly publication	Training essay peer feedback**
Thu	Oct 16	Cognition	
Fri	Oct 17	Conversations	Essay
Thu	Oct 23	Observation and interviews	
Fri	Oct 24	Teamwork	Essay peer feedback
Thu	Oct 30	— — No class (review for the exam) — —	
Fri	Oct 31	Repeat lecture* + Demo exam monitoring system	
Thu	Nov 6	— — No class (review for the exam) — —	
Fri	Nov 7	Midterm exam (room to be announced)	
Thu	Nov 13	(Discussion exam slots)	
Fri	Nov 14		
Thu	Nov 20		
Fri	Nov 21		
Thu	Nov 27		
Fri	Nov 28		
Thu	Dec 4		
Fri	Dec 5		
Thu	Dec 11		
Fri	Dec 12		

\* The class will vote on which lecture they wish to be repeated. This slot aims to help you preparing for the exam, so there will be no new content.

\*\* Participation is optional, and it is ungraded.

<sup>1</sup> For explanation on contribution rating, see [https://chatw.ch/files/grading\\_teamwork\\_example.html](https://chatw.ch/files/grading_teamwork_example.html).

<sup>2</sup> <https://lms.uzh.ch/auth/RepositoryEntry/17765990530>

## POLICIES

- **Participation and attendance:** We will not check your attendance. In my experience, students who regularly participate and attend the class tend to be more successful in finding teams for assignments and projects, and they tend to perform better in the exam.
- **Assignment hand-ins** are on OLAT under the “Hand-in” section. When the feedback is released, it will be in the “Feedback” section, and you will receive a notification on OLAT.
- **Late hand-in:** After each deadline, there is a grace period during which you can still hand in your work without receiving any penalty. The duration of the grace period is not pre-specified. As long as you can still upload your work, you are in the grace period. We will receive no hand-in afterward, and you will receive the grade of 1.0 for that work.
- **Re-grading:** Within one week after you receive the assessment, you may file a written appeal on [this page](#)<sup>3</sup>. Your appeal will be processed at the end of the semester, and you will receive the results together with the final grade of the course.
- Work containing **plagiarism** will result in a grade of 1.0. Please read the plagiarism fact sheet<sup>4</sup>.
- If you have a disability and require accommodations, please read the faculty information<sup>5</sup>
- **Rules for AI tools:** If students use an AI tool or other creative tool to generate, draft, create, or compose any portion of any assignment, they must hand in a statement that (a) credit the tool, (b) identify what part of the work is from the AI tool and what is from themselves, and (c) briefly summarize why they decided to use the tool and include its output. No student may hand in an assignment as their own that is entirely generated by means of an AI tool.
- **Grading scale interpretation:**
  - 6.00 Excellent
  - 5.75 – 5.50 Very good
  - 5.25 – 5.00 Good
  - 4.75 – 4.50 Satisfactory
  - 4.25 – 4.00 Sufficient
  - 3.75 – 3.50 Insufficient
  - 3.25 – 3.00 Poor
  - 2.75 – 2.00 Very poor
  - 1.00 Did not hand in80% of past students received a grade between 4.25 and 5.25
- **Communication:** For questions that do not contain sensitive information, please ask on the OLAT forum “Course Q&A”. For questions that can be resolved quickly with conversations, please visit the office hours (<https://chatw.ch/h>). If you need to send an email, use the OLAT “Email instructor” to ensure that you provide complete information. We will prioritize answering questions on the forum; emails will be processed later.
- **Notification:** We expect you to receive notifications from the course OLAT’s “Notifications” page. Please click the bell icon and choose “Subscribe”. This action will send you emails of each notification. You can adjust email frequency by clicking on your profile icon at the top-right and choosing “System settings”.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://uzhwwf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b9Dzs7f5A4J2hTM](https://uzhwwf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b9Dzs7f5A4J2hTM)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.ifi.uzh.ch/dam/jcr:1b564225-e6bd-437c-9e20-a07bca1c4df2/Merkblatt-Plagiate\\_en.pdf](https://www.ifi.uzh.ch/dam/jcr:1b564225-e6bd-437c-9e20-a07bca1c4df2/Merkblatt-Plagiate_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://oec.uzh.ch/en/studies/petitions/disability.html>

# Appendix: Rubric for the essay

## Central claim

- (5) Clearly stated at the beginning of the text gives a clear direction toward the central claim.
- (2) Clearly stated, but buried too far into the text.
- (0) Implicit, ambiguous, or absent

## Premises - Relevant: Are the premises relevant to the claim?

- (10) Most premises are relevant to the claim
- (5) Some premises could benefit from a clearer explanation of their relevance
- (0) Several significant logical gaps; many invalid or missing connections.

## Premises - Sufficient: Are the premises altogether sufficient to establish the claim?

- (5) Sufficient
- (0) Insufficient

## Premises - Acceptable: Are the premises likely to be accepted as true or plausible by the audience?

- (5) Most premises are likely to be true
- (3) Some minor premises are questionable
- (0) Key premises are not plausible

## Use of terms learned in this course

- (10) Used the terms with the correct understanding in an appropriate context
- (7) Correct understanding of the terms, but elaborated on their definition too long for the context of this essay
- (4) Used some terms in an unsuitable context or incorrectly understood some terms
- (0) Did not use any terms from this course

## Use of the literature\*

- (5) References have been used without error, and precise citation is used when the premise is not the central claim of the source.
- (3) References have been used without error.
- (2) Some references are irrelevant, or their relevance is not apparent (based on their title), or the essay did not adequately explain their relevance
- (0) References are absent or limited. Some references do not exist (possible AI hallucination).

## References formatting\*

- (5) Correct formatting
- (2) Some references have incomplete bibliographical information or do not have a DOI or a URL (when applicable).
- (0) Inadequate/incorrect referencing. Some references that have been cited in the text may be missing from the references, and/or some references in the reference list have not been cited in the text.

## Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization\*

- (5) The text is free of or contains only a few issues.
- (2) There are some issues that can be improved.
- (0) The text is marred by many issues to the extent that it is difficult to follow.

\* The last three criteria are not used in the exam