Center for
**LifeLong
Learning
& Design**

University of Colorado at Boulder

**Wisdom is not the product of schooling
but the lifelong attempt to acquire it.
- Albert Einstein**

A Few Comments about the Course

Doctoral Level Independent Study – CSCI 7900-903

**Gerhard Fischer and Hal Eden
Fall Semester 2007
Course information environment (SWIKI):
http://swiki.cs.colorado.edu:3232/phd-intro-2007**

December 5, 2007

Message for Ph.D. Students

- teaching and learning is not inherently linked →
  - there is a lot of learning without teaching
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  - quote: "this class this class forced me to attend the colloquium and I found it very helpful and very interesting"

- teacher: "sage on the stage" → "guide on the side" →
  - prescriptive ←→ permissive
  - support self-directed learning activities

- teacher / learner = f{person} → f{context}

Assignments

- different from solving a math problem or writing a small computer program → they have no simple "right" or "wrong" answer

- answers should provide a basis for an interesting discussion / exchange of views

- make the answers to assignments readable for everyone only after the deadline has passed

- feedback on written submissions by instructors →
  - only given in global form
  - provided answers via email when students asked me specific questions

Meetings and Materials

- break up big group into small group →
    - community building suffers
    - diversity suffers (this course cuts intentionally across all research areas of computer science and related disciplines)
    - lead to more "group-think"

- social hours around the course (before or after)
    - students voted against the evening sessions
    - students could have organized such events themselves

- teach Latex, Mathlab, …, (Powerpoint, Photoshop)……… →
    - my belief: a Ph.D. student should be able to learn this by her- or himself (learning it from: a book, online tutorials, peers, working groups)