

SYLLABUS
Special topics: Theories and practices in collaboration

ICS 280, Spring 2004

M W F 2:00-2:50 p.m.

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Office hours, by appt.

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Readings Packets: There will be a packet available in the Engineering Copy Center.

OVERVIEW

ICS 280 is a graduate level course that focuses on theories and practices in collaboration.

We are entering an era of distributed collaboration. Ranging from industry to university to scientific settings, more and more people are working in collaborative groups. Collaboration can be studied from various perspectives: e.g. theoretical approaches of group behavior and technology use, systems used for collaboration, organizational influences, theories of technology adoption, and also particular types of collaborative settings such as extreme collaboration. In this class we will explore in depth various approaches to the topic of collaboration.

Topics that will be covered include:

- Theories of group collaboration and interaction: sensemaking, intersubjectivity, distributed cognition, social facilitation, social impact theory, and others
- Costs/benefits and practices associated with particular technologies: application-sharing, video, shared workspaces, etc.
- Large-scale group-to-group collaboration
- Distributed software development
- Radical collocation/extreme collaboration
- Scientific collaboration
- Technology adoption by distributed collaborative groups
- Mobility and collaboration

The course will consist of weekly readings and discussions. Students will be expected to write short position papers (1-2 pages) on a topic related to each week's discussion, which in prior years has resulted in lively discussions. A final paper will be due at the end of the course. A high level of participation will be expected.