Department of Computer Science and Engineering

College of Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno

CS 420/620 Human-Computer Interaction

Assignment #3

September 23, 2019

Due:	Monday, October 7, 11:59 pm (by email to dascalus@cse.unr.edu)
Points:	80
Weight in course grade:	8% (CS 420) and 7% (CS 620)

Design of Everyday Things

1.   **Poor designs** [40 points]

Following Don Norman's approach, look around at the things that surround us and find **two items that show poor design.** Such items can be anything from doors, windows, and chairs to teapots, knobs, labels, and buttons. They can also be computer devices (that is, equipment or hardware) but, for this particular question, they should not be software applications.

For each of the two things (items) you found explain why you think this is poor design, describe the problem(s) it creates, and suggest a solution for improvement. Provide a picture or sketch of each item.

Please do not use examples from the two textbooks we use in this class. In principle, the examples you present could be from other sources (than the two CS 420/620 textbooks) but in this case you should indicate the sources (references) and should describe the items, their poor design, and the proposed solution for improvement *in your own words*.

Nevertheless, it would be best if you find examples from the things you use or encounter in your daily activities. Look around and have a critical eye for the design of everyday things! ☺

2.   **Affordances, signifiers, mappings, feedback** [40 points]

Provide specific examples of each of the following four concepts discussed in Chapter 1 of Don Norman's book (that we use in this class): *affordance, signifier, mapping, feedback*. One example for each concept will be sufficient. For this question, the things (items) that illustrate these concepts could include software applications. You can use the same item to illustrate one or more of the four concepts mentioned above. Provide snapshot(s) or sketch(es) of the item(s) used.

Please do not use examples from the two textbooks we use in this class. The examples you present could be from other sources (than the two CS 420/620 textbooks) but in this case you should indicate the sources (references) and should provide all descriptions *in your own words*.

*Send the assignment by email to the instructor as a single PDF file, named **A3_YourLastName**.*