User Experience, for Beginners

“I know nothing about measuring the User Experience, but I know all about being a User and I can tell you the worst device, system or site I have to deal with on a daily basis is...”

If this sounds like you, then this list of resources for beginners can help you gain confidence about the User Experience (UX).

This list for novices came straight from a Rice University psychology professor who teaches Usability Assessment, among other things. Dr. Phillip Kortum customized this short list after talking with me at length about my interest in learning how to identify and improve UX as it relates to services and systems supported by the Office of Information Technology.

1. **Handbook of Usability Testing**
   How to Plan, Design and Conduct Effective Tests, by Jeffrey Rubin and Jana Chisnell. $35 on Amazon.com

2. **Human Centered Design, Scott Klemmer**
   Offered through Coursera.org; begins November 2; $39
   [https://www.coursera.org/learn/human-computer-interaction](https://www.coursera.org/learn/human-computer-interaction)

3. **Introduction to Human Factors & Ergonomics**
   Take or audit this kind of course at your school. At Rice, Dr. Phillip Kortum describes his course as “Application of principles of psychology and human performance to the design of modern systems.”

4. **Optional: Introduction to the Design of Everyday Things**
   Taught by author Don Norman and colleagues on Udacity.com; Free, begin any time. A fun intro to get your mind around “design,” lasts about 16 hours.

5. **Advanced: Usability Assessment**
   Take or audit this kind of course at your school; this senior level course dives deeply into Usability testing and assessments and has pre-requisite(s) like the Introduction to Human Factors and Ergonomics class mentioned above.
User Experience, for Overachievers

1. Adaptive Path Guides, by Jesse James Garrett and colleagues
   http://adaptivepath.org/guides/

2. US Government on Usability (start with the Basics of Usability)
   http://www.usability.gov/

3. A Librarian’s Journey into UX
   https://effervescentlibrarian.wordpress.com/2011/02/17/getting-from-here-to-there/

4. Interactive Design Foundations - $156 for 12 months of courses like:
   https://www.interaction-design.org/courses/the-practical-guide-to-usability

5. User Experience by Lynda.com; many UX courses listed here:
   http://www.lynda.com/User-Experience-training-tutorials/97-0.html

6. EDUCAUSE Nercomp April 2015 presentation, additional resources

   http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0321657292/r

   http://www.amazon.com/Dont-Make-Think-Revisited-Usability/dp/0321965515/

9. The Design of Everyday Things, by Don Norman

10. Objectified, a feature-length documentary by Gary Hustwit
    https://hustwit.vhx.tv/buy/objectified