THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)*

*Thanks to Dr. Robert Beaton

• Purpose

* Protect rights of people participating in experiments

* Protects university against liabilities (university is legally responsible for welfare of all human subjects involved in university activities)

• Coverage

* ALL empirical studies using human subjects (even usability testing you do for this class) conducted in name of university MUST be reported to and approved by the IRB

* Most research in HCI does not put participants at risk and approval is given with “exempt” status
THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

• Principle investigator (team leader) must submit
  * “Request for exemption” cover letter
  * Statement of complete protocol
  * Written subject instructions
  * Informed consent form
  * Standard IRB forms

• I will submit a “blanket” application for the whole class

• You must remember to do this wherever you go after this class
INFORMED CONSENT FORM

• Legal requirements
  * Must be obtained PRIOR to participation
  * Written document
  * Signed without duress or stress
  * In clear, understandable language
  * Copy given to participant
INFORMED CONSENT FORM

• Content

* Statement of research purposes, procedures, duration of participation

* Statement of ANY foreseeable risks or discomforts

* Statement of ANY benefits to participants (e.g., payment, education)

* Statement of alternative procedures

* Statement of confidentiality (e.g., anonymity of the data)

* Full description of available treatments, if more than minimal risk

* Statement of persons to contact for answers to participant questions on research project, legal rights, and injuries

* Statement that participation is voluntary, state clearly any penalty (loss of benefits) if participant declines or discontinues participation (e.g., bonus fee for completing a whole series of tests)
INFORMED CONSENT FORM

• Signed consent forms must be retained for 3 years following IRB approval

• IRB approval
  * Normally takes 1-2 weeks
  * May require changes in documents
  * Evaluates ethical and legal issues, not quality of the research