Course Syllabus

Course Description

Application of computer graphics to the preparation and presentation of mediated materials. Includes principles of graphics communication, concepts in computer graphics, graphics input systems, graphics manipulation software, and graphics output systems.

Requirements

There will be assigned design projects that learners will be expected to complete independently. These design projects will require the students to spend time at the computer. A minimum of six to nine hours a week (in a normal semester) of outside preparation is a safe time allocation for successfully completing this course.

Participation and punctuality are professional behaviors expected. Educational or Instructional technology is not "doing computer projects" - it is much more. Hence, you need to be involved in class discussions and learning activities. Students may be dropped from the course, with notice from the instructor, due to lack of participation or non-attendance online.

Due dates for all assigned materials will be announced in advance. Changes on the assignments’ requirements or due dates may be announced at later dates, in class announcements. Therefore, reading the class announcements is required. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with these updates and to have all assignments ready on time.

Format

The course will be offered 100% online in a full-session format using Canvas accessed through standard web browsers. Each module will be scheduled with a beginning and ending date, with multiple activities assigned and due within each module. All students will participate, collaborate, and progress together within each scheduled module. There will be NO face-to-face campus meetings. Communication will be a mixture of asynchronous announcements, discussion postings, and online synchronous meetings in Zoom. Synchronous meetings will be scheduled at specific times/dates.

Goals/Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to prepare students in the mechanics and design of computer-based graphic images. This course is a necessary foundation for those interested in developing multimedia, web pages, or computer presentations. The course will emphasize the importance of various file format mechanics and how those file formats influence presentation outcomes.
The content of the course will emphasize basic design techniques, use of color, fonts, artwork, etc. to enhance the intended message. The student will demonstrate mastery of the concepts by creating images and other products. While the course should not be considered a "how to do" PowerPoint or Photoshop, these applications will be the primary tools used in the course along with some others. It should be noted that the course is not a message design course, but it is a course that will require mastery of the design of graphic messages.

Other topics will include text design, image acquisition and manipulation, format conversions, 3D graphics, and others as time allows.

At the end of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Understand and apply basic graphic design principles.
2. Store, organize, and manage files in a secure server environment.
3. Understand key concepts related to creating and using computer graphics for mediated learning/training.
4. Describe and apply a design process to computer graphics assignments for use in mediated learning/training contexts.
5. Understand and use industry-standard graphics software to create computer graphics for mediated learning/training.
6. Evaluate graphics assignments according to established standards.

**Homework**

1. Homework will result in graphic assignments uploaded for review to the course server and discussion assignments. All assignments are expected to contain the elements required. See the specifications below and the course modules for full details and requirements.
2. This course uses a hybrid-mastery learning approach (see below). Thus, students get more than one opportunity to show that they can master the materials required in assignments. Students may choose to redo assignments that do not meet 100% of the assignment requirements at the due date.
3. All assignments not turned in by the date of the final assignment/project will be assigned a grade of zero, unless the student has made prior arrangements with the instructor.
4. Students are encouraged to carefully check their graphics assignments before submitting them for review and grading.

**Graphic Assignments**

- Assignments are due on the date assigned.
- Assignments that are not present (no project) will be assigned a grade of 0 (zero) and cannot be redone.
- Assignments that are present with all required elements attempted, but do not meet 100% of the requirements will be assigned a grade of 50% (grade points to be rounded down).
- Students may elect to correct graphics-based assignments and resubmit for a re-grade. Resubmits are available as follows:
- Assignment 1 and 2 - two times
- Assignment 3 - one time
- Assignment 4 (final project) - no redos

- All assignment redos must be resubmitted by the time of the next assignment due date, unless the student has made prior arrangements with the instructor.
- Resubmitted work, when corrected and meets the assignment requirements, will count 80% of the original points (grade points to be rounded down).
- Resubmitted graphics assignments are typically graded with the next due assignment, except for the final project assignment. There is no redo for the final project assignment.
- Masters students are required to present one of their completed graphic assignments (all phases of the project) during a synchronous online meeting.

**Discussion Assignments**

No redos are allowed on discussion assignment postings. You will have 3 options for completing the discussion assignments:

1. Write a blog entry on your personal blog (you can create a new blogspot or add to an existing blog; minimum 400 words for undergraduate students, minimum 750 words for graduate students),
2. Actively participate in the asynchronous discussion forum, or
3. Actively participate in a synchronous online meeting facilitated by your instructor (if planned).

If you select Option 1 or Option 2 to complete the discussion activity, your submission will be recorded in the Discussions area of the course.

Option 1 will be due the day of the assignment due date.

**For Option 2:**

- Discussion Assignment Postings are due the day of the assignment due date.
- Replies to assignment postings can be made up to three days after the due date of the assignment.

Option 3 will be completed during an online synchronous meeting as scheduled by your instructor.

**Quizzes**

Objective quizzes are included in Modules 1 - 4. Each quiz is set to open at 12:01am on the Thursday before the published deadline (Sunday at 11:59pm). Within this quiz window, you have 20 minutes to complete 10 questions (the timer begins when you first access the quiz). Be sure to complete the quiz before the expiration time or your quiz will be cut short.

Quiz questions are based on required reading. You are allowed to use references while completing each quiz but you should read the material ahead of time in order to complete the quiz within the allotted time.
Learning Expectations / Mastery Learning

As discussed above, this class uses a hybrid mastery learning approach. As students take the course they are given assignments that allow them to show their mastery of the materials being covered. In a pure mastery learning approach, we would hold off on proceeding to the next assignment until all students had shown mastery and at worst case, students falling behind would be held back until a later course. Since this isn't possible in a college course, this hybrid approach expects students to meet the goals of each assignment and then grades are assigned based on their mastery. Students can then decide if they wish to improve their mastery (as reflected in their grade) or continue on to the next assignment to show their level of mastery on the next assignments content. While the assignments build on one another, students can show less mastery in one assignment and still show better mastery in a subsequent assignment.

Assessment/Grading

The class lectures will cover the assigned reading materials. Selected topics and assigned projects will also be discussed in class. In most cases, students will receive feedback on their course projects and assignments within 1 week. If feedback cannot be provided within this time frame, the instructor will notify students when they should expect to see feedback. **Students need to wait 48 hours after grades are posted by the instructor to send questions or appeals.**

Course Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 18, 2021</td>
<td><img src="https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877378" alt="Meet Your Instructor/Introduce Yourself" /></td>
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|                 | **Module 2 Discussion: Option 2**  
- Asynchronous Discussion | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877376) |
|                 | **Module 2 Discussion: Option 3**  
- Synchronous Discussion | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877374) |
| Thu Feb 25, 2021| **Module 2 Quiz: Photoshop Tools**                                                                                                    | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877363) |
|                 | **Module 2 Activity: Design Project**                                                                                                  | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877380) |
| Sun Feb 28, 2021| **Module 2 Activity: Peer Review**                                                                                                     | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877373) |
|                 | **Module 3 Discussion: Option 1**  
- Blog                                                                                                                                  | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877371) |
| Mon Mar 8, 2021 | **Module 3 Discussion: Option 2**  
- Asynchronous Discussion                                                                                                               | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877372) |
|                 | **Module 3 Discussion: Option 3**  
- Synchronous Discussion                                                                                                                | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877370) |
|                 | **Module 3 Activity: Design Project**                                                                                                  | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877381) |
| Thu Mar 11, 2021| **Module 3 Activity: Peer Review**                                                                                                     | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877369) |
|                 | **Module 3 Quiz: Photoshop Tools**                                                                                                     | due by 11:59pm  
(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/42351/assignments/877361) |
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