

FALL SEMESTER
Tuesday and Thursday
09.00-10.50am

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Office Hours Monday and Wednesday
11.00am-12.00pm and by appointment

JOMC 484

Information Graphics

Charts, Maps and Diagrams



Infographics are the result of using the rules of Information Design (one of the branches of Graphic Design) for telling news stories. They are the best way to convey statistical information, locating a place or explaining complex processes and procedures.

JOMC484 will provide you with the skills to create clear, accurate, informative and visually attractive Information Graphics using the most common tools in newsrooms worldwide.

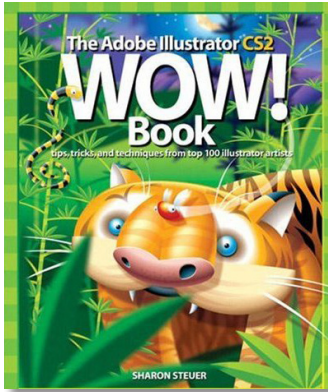
Description and policies

Course description

In **Information Graphics** you will learn to use the principles of visual representation of data, design and illustration intended to convey information, and basic cartography for news.

Attendance Policy: You are allowed to have one unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence beyond that will result in a 2% reduction in your final grade. Excused absences (doctor's note or cleared with me in advance) do not affect your grade. In addition, every three late arrivals will result in a 2% reduction in your final grade.

I expect that you will conduct yourselves within the guidelines of the Honor System. All work must be completed with the high level of honesty and integrity that this University demands.



Required readings

You don't need to purchase any textbook for this course. I will give you articles and texts that you **must** read, though.

Strongly suggested reading

The Adobe Illustrator CS2 WOW! Book
Sharon Steuer
Peachpit Press; Pap/Cdr edition (August 23, 2005)

Items to purchase

USB flash drive

You must back up your files. Please, remember that you are responsible for this. No deadline can be missed due to loss of data.

Sketchbook, pencils and pens

Any assignment must be sketched before you start working with the computer.

Assignments and grading

Grading

This is a project-oriented course. Therefore, the grading will be based on several exercises, projects, and discussions.

Components

	Value
Maps and Charts Quiz	150
Project 1: Maps and Charts	200
Project 2: Explanatory Diagram	300
Final project	350
Total	1,000

Scale

Points	Grade
950-1,000	A
920-949	A-
890-919	B+
840-889	B
800-839	B-
770-799	C+
730-769	C
700-729	C-
680-699	D+
630-679	D
600-629	D-
599 and below	F

Notes

Please be aware that I reserve the right to raise grades at the end of the semester in some cases according to class attendance, participation in discussions and the overall quality of your lab exercises.

It will be good to participate in bringing examples of newspaper infographics to class for further discussion. The main goal of this course is that you create a small and compact infographics portfolio but it is also intended to provide you with the skills for being aware of the virtues and flaws of everyday visual explanations.

Assignments and grading

Grading criteria: In-lab exercises and projects

During the semester we will complete several **lab exercises** with Illustrator and Photoshop. The exercises are intended to give you a better understanding of information design and to get you ready for the **projects**. We will do in-class reviews both of exercises and projects.

Be prepared to work out of class. You will be able to work during sessions but it is likely that you won't have enough time to complete the assignments unless that you put plenty of extra hours. It is your responsibility to organize your time in order to meet the deadlines. Consider your production speed and make plans accordingly. Always work in advance. And remember that I will be available to help you.

There are several expectations that you should meet in order to get a high grade. These are the generic grading criteria I will be using for the projects:

1. Every project must be completed on time
2. Spatial organization, structure of the elements, informative value of the display.
3. Thoughtful use of color
4. Thoughtful choice of type.
5. Aesthetic design choices in general
6. Creativity

Out of class exercises

I will be happy to review other out of class exercises. We can do it during office hours or by appointment if you are interested. However, it is very important to remember that **these exercises will not be considered whatsoever for your final grade.**

Course calendar

<i>August</i>	Tuesday 25	Intro to infographics
	Thursday 27	(-----) Complete the first exercise (optional: +5 points)
<i>September</i>	Tuesday 1	Information Design and the Rules of Visual Perception I
	Thursday 3	Information Design and the Rules of Visual Perception II
	Tuesday 8	Maps, Charts and Diagrams I
	Thursday 10	(-----) Maps and Charts Quiz
	Tuesday 15	Maps, Charts and Diagrams II PROJECT 1 BEGINS
	Thursday 17	Project 1
	Tuesday 22	(-----) Project 1
	Thursday 24	(-----) Project 1
	Tuesday 29	Project 1
<i>October</i>	Thursday 1	Project 1 PROJECT 1 DUE ON FRIDAY 2 BEFORE 5.00pm
	Tuesday 6	Building Infographics I
	Thursday 8	Building Infographics II
	Tuesday 13	Building Infographics III Intro to Project 2
	Thursday 15	Project 2

Course calendar

	Tuesday 20	Project 2
	Thursday 22	FALL BREAK
	Tuesday 27	(-----) Project 2
	Thursday 29	(-----) Project 2
<i>November</i>	Tuesday 3	(-----) Project 2
	Thursday 5	(-----) Project 2
	Tuesday 10	Project 2
	Thursday 12	Project 2 and Intro to Final Project
	Tuesday 17	Final project PROJECT 2 DUE AT THE END OF THE DAY
	Thursday 19	Final project
	Tuesday 24	(-----) Final project
	Thursday 26	THANKSGIVING
<i>December</i>	Tuesday 1	Final project
	Thursday 3	Final project FRIDAY 4, 9.00pm: Turn in Final Project
	Tuesday 8	CRITIQUE SESSION