School of Art and Design Syllabi   NJIT Syllabi

Spring 2020

AD 112-004: Communication in Art + Design - Digital Media (Revised for Remote Learning)

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AD112, Communication in Art & Design - Digital Media Spring 2020
School of Art & Design, New Jersey Institute of Technology

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Syllabus

Revised for Remote Learning

Course Description

The course introduces students to the language and conventions of describing space, form, and order using digital media. Through a series of discrete creative exercises, students will be exposed to a variety of software, processes, and concepts utilized in design communication.

Course Objectives

• Provide an exposure to various 3d modeling, rendering, and fabrication toolsets.

• Develop an understanding of multiple 3d modeling typologies.

• Develop a design methodology which operates at multiple scales.

• Provide an exposure to interior, industrial, and digital design representation conventions.

• Develop a quality of craft with multiple digital tools.

• Develop the ability to present a design proposal graphically.

• Develop a comfort with 3d printing techniques.

Class Policies

Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Assignments that are not clearly labeled will not be accepted or graded. **Late homework will be graded down one letter grade for every class late.**

Data Backups: You are expected to keep multiple backups of all course data and to have your current project files available at all times during class time. Lost, unavailable or inaccessible data will not be a valid reason for project extensions or Incomplete grade issuance.

Lab Policies: **No food or drink is allowed in the computer lab**. Lab door codes are to be kept private within the roster of enrolled students. Lab projectors and speakers are only for instructor use. You are expected to use good judgement in setting lengthy rendering tasks using lab facilities. Failure to adhere to these policies can result in your being locked out of the labs.

Academic Warning: **Students who do not complete and submit assignments on time and to a satisfactory standard will fail the class. It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed assignments from other classmates and make up work in time for the next class.**

Class Policies: Cell phones, email, music players, social networking, and music streaming software

should not be used during class. Usage of these devices or applications will result in your being asked to leave the class and being marked absent for that class session.

Instructor Expectations

At all classes you are expected to bring new computer models, renderings, and hand drawings (sketches) relevant to the project in progress. You are expected to work each and every day on the projects assigned. If for any reason you doubt your ability to do so you should consider whether you belong in this class.

While this course introduces and uses several software packages, you should not rely only on this course to teach them to you. Make use of all available resources to learn the software, books, online help, instructors and fellow students.

Online Instruction

We will be utilizing **NJIT Canvas**, **Google Meet**, **Google Drive**, and **Zoom** for online instruction. Students should all be familiar with NJIT Canvas and Google Drive. Google Meet is a program used for online video conference calls and presentations - it is included in your G-Suite that comes with your UCID. Zoom is a program used for video calls and chats - this will be how I will be doing 'desk critiques' and answering any questions that would otherwise be difficult to answer via email. We will only be utilizing the free version of Zoom - no additional costs to students.

Lessons
Lectures will be recorded by topic (Introduction, Modeling, Materials, Rendering, Lighting, Compositing). These will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas for students to access, watch, and review as needed.

Canvas will be used for lesson uploads, progress reports, progress critiques, and additional help. Discussion forums have already been created for asking questions and receiving critiques from the class as a whole. These discussion forums are open to the entire class to answer and view. Please utilize these as needed.

Weekly Updates
Weekly updates are due to be uploaded to Canvas every Friday and should include materials demonstrating progress on assignments. This can be in the form of screenshots, renders, videos, drawings, etc.

These will be reviewed by the instructor and then the following week students will be required to schedule times to have a virtual desk critique with me to review progress, any problems/questions you may have, etc. These critiques will be arranged using Google Sheets to allow you to schedule times for your critiques. Time slots are scheduled at 20-minute intervals and students can sign up for multiple slots if needed. Critiques will be carried out using Zoom - I have selected Zoom because it allows remote control (The instructor can look at a student's model in the software in real time to address any questions or concerns and demonstrate techniques and solutions as needed) as well as video chat capabilities.

A video tutorial of this method has been uploaded to Canvas for students' convenience.

Weekly updates will count as student attendance. Each student is REQUIRED to submit on time and schedule a critique, even if he or she does not think it is necessary.

Students will need a computer with a working microphone (video is unnecessary - but audio is important) and must be ready to discuss your progress.

Class Meetings
Class meetings will be arranged as needed to discuss new assignments and to address the class as a whole. These will always fall on a scheduled meeting day during the scheduled class time. These meetings will be held using Google Meet.

Final Critiques
Final critiques will be held on the assigned due date for each assignment.   Students will be required to use Google Meet to present. The instructor will host them and distribute a presentation schedule in advance. Presentations will begin promptly at the start of scheduled class time on respective due dates - students must be available and ready to present. These will be very similar to the final critiques held in class - just in a new online format.

A video tutorial of this method has been uploaded to Canvas for convenience.

Final Assignment Uploads for Grading
All final assignment submissions will be uploaded to our class' shared Google Drive for grading. Please submit your final PDF, rendered images, photographs, project files, and any additional materials utilized.

Grading

The following factors will be considered when assigning your grade:

A. Ability to intellectually engage the material investigated in the course.

Students are to thoughtfully engage the material presented in readings, presentations and discussions. Responses to questions should be directly and thoughtful related to topics investigated in the assignment.

B. Communication.

The ability to communicate ideas and concepts to others. This includes written, verbal, and visual communication skills. Outside critics may be brought in at the end of each project to review your work in an open forum environment. These presentations should be considered "client presentations" and should be presented with a level of professionalism consistent with your work.

C. Independent thinking.

Independent thinking will be evaluated and will be based on the ideas and thoughts developed on an independent basis by the student. Depth of creative thought is primary to the independent thinking evaluation. Independent thinking must be clearly demonstrated in all aspects of the course including verbal participation in the classroom.

D. Professional Attitude.

Students are to express and articulate clearly their view toward the topics in this course in a method which reflects the quality of a professional in the field of design. It is the ethical responsibility of the student to support the learning community in this course in a positive and constructive manner. Maintaining a positive learning community is parallel to expectations one will experience in supporting a positive work environment after graduation.

Professional attitude includes, but is not limited to, the ability to maintain and contribute to a positive learning environment, professional attitude towards classmates, guests, and the instructor. To receive a positive evaluation, professional attitude must be clearly demonstrated on a consistent and daily basis. Do not take this portion of the course for granted--you are expected to demonstrate professional maturation processes within the course. The ability to receive and give critical feedback, respond to challenging situations with a positive attitude, and support an excellent working studio environment are all essential to receiving high marks in professional attitude evaluations.

The grade breakdown for this course is as follows:

10% Class Participation

90% Projects 1-4

NJIT uses the following grades:

A/4.0 (superior)
B+/3.5 (excellent)
B/3.0 (very good)
C+/2.5 (good)
C/2.0 (acceptable)
D/1.0 (minimum)
F/0.0
(inadequate).

Kepler

Project grading is not officially applied to student standing until project deliverables have been uploaded in the proper format to the Kepler system. **Failure to upload work to Kepler will result in an F for the course.**

A video tutorial will be uploaded to Canvas for student's reference.

ATTENDANCE POLICY, ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with either freshman or sophomore standing also have an attendance requirement overlaid on the grading criteria. No more than three unexcused absences are permitted without a grade reduction. Each unexcused absence above the three (starting with the fourth) will result in a letter grade reduction for the semester. In other words, four absences would result in a maximum grade of B (assuming

everything done is of "A" quality), five absences would result in a maximum grade of "C", six in a maximum grade of "D", etc. Students do NOT receive extensions for submission of work due to any unexcused absences. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the individual instructor. Absences for illness in order to be excused MUST be accompanied by documentation from professional medical personnel who are NOT members of your family. Since religious holidays are known in advance, students who expect to be absent due to religious holidays must notify their instructor by the second week of class.

NJIT and instructors will endeavor to make any accommodations required and necessary for the success of students with disabilities. However, in order to receive accommodations disabilities MUST be documented with the NJIT Disability Office AND notification of request for accommodation must be made to the instructor by the second week of class. No accommodations can be granted "after the fact" unless due to a situation (injury/illness/etc.) that occurs or is documented during the semester. In those instances accommodations will commence upon notification or observation of the disability.

Weekly Outline

Jan 20 Week 1
Intro to Course and 3d Max
3d Max navigation, organization and modeling
Project 1 "Morphology Matrices" assigned

Jan 27 Week 2
Model typologies Modeling strategies
Model/Scene organization
Project 1 "Morphology Matrices" progress

Jan 31 - Feb 2nd - Global Game Jam, Foundation Labs Closed

Feb 3 Week 3
Intro to InDesign Sheet layout and formatting
Project 1 "Morphology Matrices" Presentations/Critiques
Project 2 "Build" assigned

Feb 10 Week 4
Lighting tools
Materials tools
Rendering tools
Project 2 "Build" progress

Feb 17 Week 5
Advanced 3d Max Topics
Project 2 "Build" progress

Feb 24 Week 6
Advanced 3d Max Topics
Project 2 "Build" Presentations/Critiques

Mar 2 Week 7
Project 3 "Form" assigned
Intro to Rhino Rhino navigation, organization and modeling
Modeling strategies

Model organization

March 9 Week 8
Photoshop Montage compositing
Model export/translation to 3d Max
Project 3 "Form" progress
Advanced Rhino Topics

March 16 Week 9
Spring Recess

March 23 Week 10
Project 3 "Form" weekly progress update due
Project 3 "Form" Desk Critiques

March 30 Week 11
Project 3 "Form" weekly progress update due
Project 3 "Form" Desk Critiques
Project 3 "Form" Presentations/Critiques

April 6 Week 12
Project 4 "Show" assigned
Project 4 "Show" desk critiques

April 13 Week 13
Project 4 "Show" weekly progress update due
Project 4 "Show" desk critiques

April 20 Week 14
Project 4 "Show" weekly progress update due
Project 4 "Show" desk critiques

April 27 Week 15
Collaborative Assignment/Competition
Presentations
Course wrap up
Kepler Grading