

Information Design (Spring 2009)

Instructor: Jonathan Bass

Office / Hours: Loree 010 / W 2:00-3:00 pm, after each class, and by appointment

Online class schedule

http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~jbass/courses/415_spr09.htm

Required Texts

Kim Baer. *Information Design Workbook: Graphic Approaches, Solutions, and Inspiration plus 20 Case Studies*. Rockport.

Michael Mandiberg and Xtine Burrough, *Digital Foundations: Introduction to Media Design with the Adobe Creative Suite*. Peachpit Press.

Timothy Samara, *Making and Breaking the Grid: A Graphic Design Layout Workshop*.

You can purchase these texts from the Rutgers Bookstore and possibly from New Jersey Books, 108 Somerset St. Other readings will be available online via the class schedule or Sakai.

Recommended Text

Sandee Cohen, *InDesign CS3 (Visual Quickstart Guide)*

Course Requirements

Class participation	15%
Homework & short projects	15%
Brochure project	15%
Book Chapter Project	15%
Poster Project	15%
Final project	25%

The genre of the final project will be announced later in the semester and will reflect and extend skills and knowledge developed in the preceding projects.

A design script documenting your work is due with each of the four main projects.

In keeping with departmental tradition: Each student will need to participate in at least one oral presentation, either on his or her own work or one or more weekly readings.

Complete and keep all graded course work in a portfolio submitted with the midterm and the final.

Policies:

Attendance. Attendance at all classes is expected. Students missing more than three classes fail the course – without exception. Regular latenesses will count as half-absences (retroactively).

Late work. Late graded assignments will be marked down by one letter grade per class. They are due at the start of class unless otherwise noted. All late work should be discussed in person with the instructor. *Do not email the instructor about late work.*

Formatting and submitting work. Generally, you'll submit your projects and other work in at least two forms: (1) in a printed, photocopied, or handmade; and (2) online as a high-quality PDF via Scribd (<http://www.scribd.com/>) and/or a Sakai dropbox. Work will not count as submitted until both the physical and digital formats are turned in.

Submitting work by email. Unless specifically requested to submit work via email, do NOT do this.

Class participation. We do a LOT of work in class. Class participation entails attendance and active involvement in discussion and other activities. If you miss more than two classes you'll fail this part of the course and be unlikely to get higher than a "B" grade overall.

Instant messaging, etc. During class students are not allowed to communicate electronically (i.e., via email, IM, text message, social network interface, forum, list-serv, etc.) with any persons outside of the class. Exceptions will be made for communication related to in-class work.

Sample work. I will often want to share examples of students' work in class. Names will seldom be deleted. If you object to my using your work, let me know very clearly (in person or by email).

Email. The instructor responds to email Monday to Friday. The instructor's email is for asking questions about the course work. *Please do not use email to share your reasons for missing class or work or to ask for his permission to do so.* If you need to discuss attendance or the lateness or absence of written work, do so in class or during office hours.

Online Schedule. Students are responsible for regularly checking the online schedule for important changes. The schedule is updated weekly, usually a day or two before class. Homework is posted at least one week before the work is due.

Plagiarism. Students must review and abide by the University's code on plagiarism. Plagiarism covers uncredited use of another's work, including written material, images, and page designs. Given that this is a design course: design work should always be of the student's own creation. Images not of the student's own creation must be credited in the design script (or where possible in the project document itself). All textual and visual sources for a project must be listed with sufficient bibliographical information in the design script. For some projects, students will be supplied with a base text for them to modify, edit, design, etc. In all other cases, the writing in a document should be either (1) documented quotation and paraphrase, where this makes sense, or (2) the student's own writing. Cutting and pasting text (e.g., from a Wikipedia article), unless permission is given by the instructor, will count either as plagiarism (where credit is not given) or as incomplete work (where credit is given).

Departmental Review All grades are subject to departmental review.