



**ARTS 502 801, CRN 22951, DESIGN TEACHING METHODS  
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2015**

**Instructor:** Mitchell Casey McGarr, Assistant Professor Visual Communication

**Office Location:** 415

**Office Hours:** Monday 11-4, Thursday 11-4

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

Teaching Graphic Design by Stephen Heller (Course offerings and class projects)

Design School Confidential: Extraordinary Class Projects from the International Design Schools, Colleges, and Institutes by Steven Heller and Lita Talarico

**Both can be purchased at <http://www.half.ebay.com>**

**Course Description**

This course will deal with the creation of a BFA curriculum through team - based exploration and ideation while functioning as a university faculty member. The class will operate as a university visual communication faculty tasked with creating a "from scratch" BFA curriculum in Visual Communication. Required university studies, core foundations, reviews, philosophy as well as the role of individual faculty members attributes will be part of the mix. Course development, sequencing and assessment rubrics will be created in a team-based environment.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Gain knowledge of curriculum requirements
2. Develop a university mission statement as a road-map for curriculum direction
3. Expand your understanding of multi-faceted course structure and sequencing.
4. Understand the value of innovative collaborative thinking associated with working as faculty
5. Understand the sometimes political nature of navigating through a faculty's strengths and weaknesses
6. New class and single course development from syllabi to assessment will be addressed
7. Academic Committees will be explored

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

This class will be a combination of lecture/discussion, critiques in class, outside exercises and assignments. A commitment to the homework will be necessary to achieve the goals for this class and its completion. A willingness to participate and verbally collaborate will be a key component in a productive class dynamic and a positive outcome for each student. Weekly verbal contributions in the form of group discussions will be mandatory for the completion of this class. It is the responsibility of the student to voluntarily participate with relevant comments and questions.

## **GRADE EVALUATION**

Your final grade will be based on an average of all assignments, attendance and a participation grade. Some assignments may be graded as a group in combination with student assessments. The participation grade is based on: dedication to methodology application, conceptual thinking ability, daily class involvement and contributions to your classmates, as well as both a desire and capacity to show progress and meet deadlines. Grades will be discussed on an individual basis by office appointment only not in class.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

- Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet. (Signing in for a classmate is NOT acceptable)
- Two tardies to class of 20 minutes or more equals one absence.
- Arriving to class 60 minutes late or more equals one absence.
- Returning from break 10 minutes late or more two times equals one absence
- Sleeping, dozing or nodding off in class besides being very rude to all concerned will be counted as a tardy the first time and an absence the second time and any subsequent occurrences.
- You may be absent from class twice. (Absent is absent, unexcused or excused)
- Three absences will result in failing the class.
- On your first absence you will receive an e-mail warning from your instructor that will be copied to Lee Whitmarsh and filed.
- On your second absence you will receive an e-mail warning from your instructor that will be copied to Lee Whitmarsh and filed.
- If a student is OVER 10 MINUTES late for the final, a full grade will be deducted from his or her final grade.
- If a student does not show up for the final they automatically fail the class.

## **WORDS TO-THE-WISE**

Be here because you want to be. It's STILL your show.

IF YOU FALL BEHIND RUN LIKE HELL TO CATCH UP

Helping your classmates is helping yourself.

## **GRADING**

- A** 90 to 100 points: Excellent (superior effort and results above and beyond)
- B** 80 to 89 points: Good (significant effort and hard work)
- C** 70 to 79 points: Average (minimal class requirements met)
- D** 60 to 69 points: Below Average (below class average expectations)
- F** 50 to 59 points: Poor (inferior work and attitude)

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

casey.mcgarr@tamuc.edu

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **STATEMENT ON STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenet of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

All students must show respect toward the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each other's differences. If the instructor determines that a student is not being respectful towards other students or the instructor, it is the instructor's prerogative to ask the student to leave, to refer the student to the department head, and to consider referring the student to the Dean of Students who may consider requiring the student to drop the course. Please refer to pages 42 – 46 of the Texas A&M University-commerce Student guidebook's Codes of Conduct for details.

### **CLASS POLICY**

Cell-phones, e-mailing, texting, headphones, or unauthorized computer use in class with result in a one-point deduction from the current assignment.

### **SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

- Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any class-related activity.
- Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the submission of someone else's materials as one's own work.
- Scholastic dishonesty may involve one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, or collusion.

**PLAGIARISM** is the use of an author's words or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation. Cite your references.

**CHEATING** is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, copying computer or Internet files, using someone else's work for assignments as if it were one's own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

**COLLUSION** is intentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, providing a paper or project to another student, providing an inappropriate level of assistance, communicating answers to a classmate during an examination, removing tests or answer sheets from a test site, and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY COULD RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY**

#### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library- Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

**Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.