SYLLABUS

DATES | TOPICS | READINGS | ASSIGNMENTS

01.25.22  Introduction to Design & Introduction to Photoshop  
Graphic Design Essentials (With Adobe Software) Joyce Walsh (required)  
Homework (HW) due next class: Read Chapter 1 & Environmental Graphics Sketches (pg 17)

02.01.22  Elements of Design & Introduction to Illustrator  
HW due next class: Read Chapter 2, Three of the Elements in Designs (pg 37) & Color Grids (pg 56)

02.08.22  Typography I  
HW due next class: Read Chapter 3, First draft of Project 1 Layout 1 (P1) (pg 84) & Slang type (pg 100)

02.15.22  Typography II & Advanced Illustrator  
Critique Project 1 First Layout | Critique Slang Type  
HW due next class: First draft of Project 1 Layout 2 (pg 100)

02.22.22  No Class | Monday Classes

03.01.22  Creative Process & Concept Development | Critique Project 1 Second Layout  
HW due next class: Final revisions for Project 1

03.08.22  No Class | Spring Break!

03.15.22  Illustration and Photography | Advanced Photoshop | Submit Project 1  
HW due next class: Read Chapter 4 & First draft of Project 2 (P2) (pg 146 examples)

03.22.22  Layout | Integrate Type & Image | Illustrator & Photoshop | Critique Project 2  
HW due next class: Read Chapter 5 & Final revisions for Project 2

03.29.22  Logos | Advanced Illustrator | Submit Project 2  
HW due next class: Read Chapter 6 & First draft Project 3 (P3) (pg 186)

04.05.22  Introduction InDesign | Critique Project 3  
HW due next class: Final revisions Project 3 & Type Tips (pg 154)

04.12.22  Visual Themes | InDesign | Submit Project 3  
HW due next class: Read Chapter 7 & First draft Project 4 cover (P4) (pg 206)

04.19.22  Advanced InDesign | Critique Project 4 cover  
HW due next class: Revise cover & First draft Project 4 poster

04.26.22  Digital Interface Design Strategies | Critique Project 4 poster  
HW due next class: Revise Project 4 poster & cover as needed

05.03.22  Presentation of Final Projects

CONTACT
joycew@bu.edu | COM RM 203D | Office Hours Wednesdays 10-11 by appt & 11-12 drop-in  
Teaching Assistant | Nupur Chowdhury nupurdc@bu.edu | Lab hours on Zoom Wednesday & Friday 10-12  
Website people.bu.edu/joycew for the syllabus, project plans & links for the book.  
@WalshWall for previous student projects & final class photos  
Google Drive for uploading HW, drafts and final projects, software skills files.

DESCRIPTION
Design Strategy & Software, CM501, provides knowledge and practice for effective graphic design for all media.  
Develops a foundation in design principles and software skills including Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign.  
Students create projects demonstrating how design strategies are used to engage audiences, and enhance comprehension of all forms of mass communication from traditional print to digital media.

ADOBE SOFTWARE
Before the first class, apply for free Adobe Illustrator, InDesign and Photoshop here:  
http://www.bu.edu/tech/services/teaching/digital-multimedia-production/adobe-creative-cloud/request/  
Load and test Illustrator, InDesign and Photoshop before the first class. Bring your laptops to every class.
SYLLABUS

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION | CREATIVITY /INNOVATION | DIGITAL/MULTIMEDIA EXPRESSION

BU HUB LEARNING OUTCOMES

AESTHETIC EXPLORATION {AE}

1| Students will demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of notable works in literature and/or the arts, including the cultural contexts in which those works were created, and be able to identify their ongoing significance and relevance.

2| Students will demonstrate the reasoning skills and vocabulary necessary to interpret a work of art (literature, music, visual arts, etc.).

3| Students will produce evaluative, analytical, or creative works that demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics—such as genres, modes, styles, and cultural history—of at least one literary or artistic medium.

CREATIVITY / INNOVATION {CI}

4| Students will demonstrate understanding of creativity as a learnable, iterative process of imagining new possibilities that involves risk-taking, use of multiple strategies, and reconceiving in response to feedback, and will be able to identify individual and institutional factors that promote and inhibit creativity.

5| Students will be able to exercise their own potential for engaging in creative activity by conceiving and executing original work either alone or as part of a team.

DIGITAL/MULTIMEDIA EXPRESSION {DME}

6| Students will be able to craft and deliver responsible, considered, and well-structured arguments using media and modes of expression appropriate to the situation.

7| Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the capabilities of various communication technologies and be able to use these technologies ethically and effectively.

8| Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of visual communication, such as principles governing design, time-based and interactive media, and the audio-visual representation of qualitative and quantitative data.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & REQUIREMENTS

Students will learn:

1| Design strategies for effectively engaging audiences and enhancing communication in all forms of media. {AE, CI, DME}

2| The fundamentals of visual communication by participating in lectures & critiques, completing design projects, homework & in-class assignments. {AE, CI, DME}

3| The creative process and concept development strategies used in solving design problems. {CI}

4| Analytical skills emphasizing the use of objective criteria, design vocabulary and technical terminology. {AE}

5| To improve verbal communication of visual concepts and terminology during slide lecture discussions and critiques. {AE}

6| How to design and produce communication for all media using creative software. {AE, CI, CME}

7| Effective and ethical use of creative software including Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. {DME}

8| The capabilities of Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. {DME}

9| While completing four design projects using creative software independently, outside of class time. {AE, CI, DME}
# SYLLABUS

## PROJECTS | CLASS WORK | HW | GRADES

### PROJECTS
The four projects are designed for students to demonstrate their developing knowledge of principles governing design, strategies for effective visual communication, and to build a strong foundation in creative software skills.

Projects become more complex as we progress through the semester.

- **P1** The first project will emphasize typography and color knowledge while learning Illustrator skills.
- **P2** The second project will add images and layout strategies while learning Photoshop and Illustrator skills.
- **P3** The third project creates logos using typography, color and symbol design while using Illustrator.
- **P4** The fourth project involves visual themes, which includes all of the topics students have learned: color, type, images, layout, and graphic elements. Students establish visual themes throughout multiple formats for this final project while developing expertise using InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop.

### DISCUSSIONS & READINGS
In addition to project work, slide lecture-discussions and required readings introduce students to many notable works in the arts, both historical and contemporary. These works reveal graphic design history and their cultural contexts. Examples include the Caves at Lascaux, the history of the development of the symbols of the western alphabet, and Müller-Brockmann's application of the Golden Section with the emergence of International Style.

### IN-CLASS & HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS
In-class and homework assignments reinforce design principles, strategies and understanding of contemporary and historical design, while learning new software. As students develop software skills, they reiterate design knowledge in a variety of ways, deepening their understanding of both areas.

For example, throughout the semester, students design and write evaluative analyses using design vocabulary, while developing new software skills.

Class participation and completion of in-class assignments and homework comprise 20% of the final grade.

### PRESENTATIONS
Make a neat, professional presentation as it will effect the project's grade. Projects are due at the beginning of class. You will experience pure psychic torture if you try to print projects in room 206 after 12:00 on the day they are due. This is the classic set up for Murphy's Law: *If anything can go wrong, it will.*

### PRINTING
To print in the lab: [http://www.bu.edu/comtech/students/laptop-information/how-to-print-from-a-laptop/](http://www.bu.edu/comtech/students/laptop-information/how-to-print-from-a-laptop/)

### SUPPLIES
Sketchbook or notebook, black marker, thumb or external drive (for backups).

(TBD: X-acto knife, rubber cement, four 11"x14" display boards)

Before the first class apply for, download and test Adobe software (see note on pg 1).

### GRADES
The four projects are weighted equally and account for 80% of the final grade.

Class participation and completion of in-class assignments and homework comprise 20% of the final grade.

No late class work or homework is accepted. Late projects will be penalized 10% for each class past the due date.

Letter grade numeric values:

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SYLLABUS

READINGS | WEBSITES | VIDEOS | PODCASTS

REQUIRED
Graphic Design Essentials: Skills, Software and Creative Strategies, Joyce Walsh
Available at the bookstore, Amazon and the publisher’s website for printed or for the best digital versions:
Bloomsbury: https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/graphic-design-essentials-9781350075047/

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Class 1 Introduction to Design
* Graphic Design Essentials: Skills, Software and Creative Strategies, Chapter 1
* Joyce Walsh website for syllabus, project plans, and book pdf | people.bu.edu/joycew

Class 2 Elements of Design
* Graphic Design Essentials, Chapter 2
Communication Arts | www.commarts.com/

Class 3 Typography
* Graphic Design Essentials, Chapter 3
Elements of Typographic Style, Robert Bringhurst, Hartley & Marks Publishers
Never Use Futura, Douglas Thomas, Princeton Architectural Press
Typography Timeline | http://www.counterspace.us/typography/timeline/
Free Fonts | https://www.dafont.com/

Class 5 Concept Development and the Creative Process
Ethan Hawke | Give yourself Permission to Be Creative | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRS9Gek4V5Q
Debbie Millman | Podcasts about design | https://www.designmattersmedia.com/designmatters
Abstract | Documentaries about Creativity in Design | https://www.netflix.com/title/80057883

Class 6 Illustration and Photography
* Graphic Design Essentials, Chapter 4
The Picture Book, Angus Hyland, Laurence King Publishing

Class 7 Layout
* Graphic Design Essentials, Chapter 5
Making and Breaking the Grid, Timothy Samara, Rockport
Grid Systems in Graphic Design, Josef Müller-Brockmann

Class 8 Logos
* Graphic Design Essentials, Chapter 6
Logo, Michael Evamy, Laurence King Publishing
Pentagram Design Identities | https://www.pentagram.com/work/discipline/brand-identity
Famous Logos | https://www.fastcompany.com/1672666/the-worlds-most-famous-logos-organized-by-visual-theme#

Class 9 Visual Themes
* Graphic Design Essentials, Chapter 7
Beauty, Sagmeister & Walsh, Phaidon

Class 10 Digital Interface Design Strategies
Communication Arts Interactive Gallery | https://www.commarts.com/gallery?d=interactive
WIX Best beginners web design platform | www.wix.com
* Required Reading
SYLLABUS

POLICIES | ACADEMIC CONDUCT CODE
All BU students are bound by the Academic Conduct Code: www.bu.edu/academics/policies. Please review to ensure you are acting responsibly and ethically in regard to your academics.

PLAGIARISM POLICY
Plagiarism is the act of representing someone else’s creative and/or academic work as your own, in full or in part. It can be an act of commission, in which one intentionally appropriates the words, pictures or ideas of another, or it can be an act of omission, in which one fails to acknowledge/document/give credit to the source, creator and/or the copyright owner of those works, pictures or ideas. Plagiarism is the most serious academic offense that you can commit and can result in probation, suspension or expulsion. Boston University College of Communication Plagiarism Policy

RECORDING POLICY (POST-COVID)
Please note that classroom proceedings for this course might be recorded for purposes including, but not limited to, student illness, religious holidays, disability accommodations, or student course review. Note also that recording devices are prohibited in the classroom except with the instructor’s permission.

DISABILITY SERVICES STATEMENT
If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 617-353-3658 to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests.

POSITIVE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE
At your discretion, please alert me to anything related to preferred pronouns, preferred name or nickname, or any extenuating circumstances or trigger warnings (personal, medical, etc.) that might affect your classroom experience. I want to make sure you have the most positive experience in the classroom as possible. If work that gets shown in this class, professional or student-generated, offends you in anyway, please mention it in class or talk to us privately about it so that we can all learn from each other. This is not to say we will ever restrict freedom of speech or water down an aggressive or edgy idea, but we want to discuss anything that someone deems troublesome or offensive.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
BU has strict guidelines on classroom behavior and practices when it comes to treatment of students and guests on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, mental or physical disability, genetic information, military service, national origin, or due to marital, parental, or veteran status. Discrimination for any of these reasons is prohibited.

ATHLETICS STATEMENT
All student-athletes should be provided with a sheet from Student-Athlete Support Services regarding absences throughout the semester. These sheets should be handed in as soon as possible to avoid potential conflicts and so arrangements can be made to provide for missed lecture notes, class work, or discussion.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT
Boston University is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and our school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which regards sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students’ academic success and we encourage students who have experienced some form of sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need. Confidential support and academic advocacy resources can be found with the Center for Sexual Assault Response & Prevention www.bu.edu/safety/sexual-misconduct

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS
Attend every class, take notes & ask questions. Create a folder for this course and save all of your work in the folder.
Read the book. Prepare your work for critiques and complete each project by the suggested completion date.
Phones, food and drinks should not be on the desks, please put them away.
During presentations, if a software process is unclear, ask to see the process demonstrated again, your question will likely help others.
Spend a few minutes after every class reviewing notes and new software processes.
Prepare what you will say, test drive your presentation, and adjust for any malfunctions before the day of class presentations.
Texting or browsing will adversely affect your ability to learn (and make me sad).
Strive for excellence in every assignment: in class and projects.
Treat everyone with courtesy & enjoy the process.