

# Creative Computing

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Parsons The New School for Design  
Fall 2015

## Course Info

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- **Course:** [PUCD 2035 D / CRN: 7043](#)
- **Instructor:** Andy Dayton / [daytona1@newschool.edu](mailto:daytona1@newschool.edu)
- **Time:** Fridays, 9:00 am - 11:40 am
- **Location:** 6 East 16th Street 610

## Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to programming as a creative medium—as a way of making and exploring. The coursework focuses on developing a vocabulary of interaction design principles that can then be applied across a range of platforms, rather than focusing on one specific programming language or framework. Students are encouraged to experiment with various media, tools, and techniques, ultimately producing a portfolio of interactive and visual projects designed for the screen. An emphasis is placed on research-based problem solving and a “learning through making” approach to technical skill building.

## Learning Outcomes

*By the end of the semester, students should be able to:*

1. Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental programming concepts
2. Develop several visual & interactive projects
3. Objectively present their design process and workflow
4. Integrate a variety of media elements into their projects
5. Problem solve with other students through reading other students' code
6. Demonstrate the ability to research and learn unfamiliar technical topics.
7. Concept projects that use code in a creative way

## Class Page

As the semester continues, you should be able to find all of the information you need on the class page:

<http://cc.andydayton.com/>

When in doubt, check the class page!

## Required Materials

Please bring a **fully-charged** laptop to every class.

## Attendance

Per New School policy, 3 or more absences or excessive tardiness will result in a failing grade.

## Assignments

In order to facilitate critiques and allow me to provide meaningful in-class feedback, **all completed assignments must be submitted at 12am the day they are due**. That means if your assignment is due for Friday's class, you need to turn it in on Thursday evening.

## Course Outline

Below is a rough outline of the semester, subject to change.

Week	Date	Topic/Activity	Assignment(s) Due	Readings Discussed
1	9/4	Introduction	-	-
2	9/11	Web Materials / Functions & Variables	Drawing Machine 1 / Account Setup	Gerstner, <i>Designing Programmes</i>
3	9/18	Advanced Debugging / Data Types, Logic & Loops	Exercises 1 / Drawing Machine 2	Ford, "What is Code"
4	9/25	Drawing in Code / Color & Geometry	Exercises 2 / Drawing Machine 3	Albers, <i>Interaction of Color</i>
5	10/2	Advanced Functions / Interactivity	Exercises 3 / Drawing Machine 4	Petzold, <i>Code</i>
6	10/9	Animation / Review	Translation 1	TBD
7	10/16	Midterm Exam / Conferences	Translation 2	-
8	10/23	Clouds to Circuits / Filesystems, Git, IDEs	<i>Software Installation</i>	Galloway, <i>Protocol</i>
9	10/30	Information in Action / AJAX & APIs	Exquisite Corpse 1	Gleick, <i>The Information</i>
10	11/6	Research & Development	Exquisite Corpse 2	Cegłowski, "Web Design: The First 100 Years"
11	11/13	Beyond p5.js I: Web Materials Revisited	Time 1	TBD
12	11/20	Beyond p5.js II: JavaScript Libraries	Time 2	TBD
-	11/27	Thanksgiving	Final Project Prototype	
13	12/4	Work Day		Borges, "The Library of Babel"
14	12/11	Work Day		
15	12/18	Final Critiques	Final Project	

## Grading

You grading will be broken into the following parts:

Assessment	%
Take-home Assignments & Exercises	45%
Final Project	25%
Midterm Exam	10%
Daily Quizzes	10%
In-class Participation and Attitude	10%

*Extra credit may be issued for participating in optional assignments or activities.*

## Grading Standards

These are Parsons' school-wide standards for grading undergraduate students, which I will observe.

- **A** [4.0; 96–100%] Work of exceptional quality, which often goes beyond the stated goals of the course
- **A-** [3.7; 91–95%] Work of very high quality
- **B+** [3.3; 86–90%] Work of high quality that indicates substantially higher than average abilities
- **B** [3.0; 81–85%] Very good work that satisfies the goals of the course
- **B-** [2.7; 76–80%] Good work
- **C+** [2.3; 71–75%] Above-average work
- **C** [2.0; 66–70%] Average work that indicates an understanding of the course material; passable Satisfactory completion of a course is considered to be a grade of C or higher.
- **C-** [1.7; 61–65%] Passing work but below good academic standing
- **D** [1.0; 46–60%] Below-average work that indicates a student does not fully understand the assignments; Probation level though passing for credit
- **F** [0.0; 0–45%] Failure, no credit

## Grade of W

The grade of **W** may be issued by the Office of the Registrar to a student who officially withdraws from a course within the applicable deadline. There is no academic penalty, but the grade will appear on the student transcript. A grade of W may also be issued by an instructor to a graduate student (except at Parsons and Mannes) who has not completed course requirements nor arranged for an Incomplete.

## Grade of WF

The grade of **WF** is issued by an instructor to a student (all undergraduates and all graduate students) who has not attended or not completed all required work in a course but did not officially withdraw before the withdrawal deadline. It differs from an “F,” which would indicate that the student technically completed requirements but that the level of work did not qualify for a passing grade. The WF is equivalent to an F in calculating the grade point average (zero grade points), and no credit is awarded.

## Grades of Incomplete

The grade of **I**, or temporary incomplete, may be granted to a student under unusual and extenuating circumstances, such as when the student's academic life is interrupted by a medical or personal emergency. This mark is not given automatically but only upon the student's request and at the discretion of the instructor. A Request for Incomplete form must be completed and signed by student and instructor. The time allowed for completion of the work and removal of the “I” mark will be set by the instructor with the following limitations: [You should include one the following standards, depending on the level of your course].

Work must be completed no later than the seventh week of the following fall semester for spring or summer term incompletes and no later than the seventh week of the following spring semester for fall term incompletes. Grades of “I” not revised in the prescribed time will be recorded as a final grade of “WF” by the Office of the Registrar.

## **Divisional, Program, and Class Policies**

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### **Responsibility**

Students are responsible for all assignments, even if they are absent. Late assignments, failure to complete the assignments for class discussion and/or critique, and lack of preparedness for in-class discussions, presentations and/or critiques will jeopardize your successful completion of this course.

### **Participation**

Class participation is an essential part of class and includes: keeping up with reading, assignments, projects, contributing meaningfully to class discussions, active participation in group work, and coming to class regularly and on time.

### **Attendance**

Parsons’ attendance guidelines were developed to encourage students’ success in all aspects of their academic programs. Full participation is essential to the successful completion of coursework and enhances the quality of the educational experience for all, particularly in courses where group work is integral; thus, Parsons promotes high levels of attendance. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and promptly and in compliance with the standards stated in this course syllabus.

While attendance is just one aspect of active participation, absence from a significant portion of class time may prevent the successful attainment of course objectives. A significant portion of class time is generally defined as the equivalent of three weeks, or 20%, of class time. Lateness or early departure from class may be recorded as one full absence. Students may be asked to withdraw from a course if habitual absenteeism or tardiness has a negative impact on the class environment.

Whether the course is a lecture, seminar or studio, faculty will assess each student’s performance against all of the assessment criteria in determining the student’s final grade.

### **Delays**

In rare instances, I may be delayed arriving to class. If I have not arrived by the time class is scheduled to start, you must wait a minimum of thirty minutes for my arrival. In the event that I will miss class entirely, a sign will be posted at the classroom indicating your assignment for the next class meeting.

### **Electronic Devices**

The use of electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, cameras, etc.) is permitted when the device is being used in relation to the course's work. All other uses are prohibited in the classroom and devices should be turned off before class starts.

### **Academic Honesty and Integrity**

The New School views “academic honesty and integrity” as the duty of every member of an academic community to claim authorship for his or her own work and only for that work, and to recognize the contributions of others accurately and completely. This obligation is fundamental to the integrity of intellectual debate, and creative and academic pursuits. Academic honesty and integrity includes accurate use of quotations, as well as appropriate and explicit citation of sources in instances of paraphrasing and describing ideas, or reporting on research findings or any aspect of the work of others (including that of faculty members and other students). Academic dishonesty results from infractions of this “accurate use”. The standards of academic honesty and integrity, and citation of sources, apply to all forms of academic work, including submissions of drafts of

final papers or projects. All members of the University community are expected to conduct themselves in accord with the standards of academic honesty and integrity. Please see the complete policy in the Parsons Catalog.

It is the responsibility of students to learn the procedures specific to their discipline for correctly and appropriately differentiating their own work from that of others. Compromising your academic integrity may lead to serious consequences, including (but not limited to) one or more of the following: failure of the assignment, failure of the course, academic warning, disciplinary probation, suspension from the university, or dismissal from the university.

## **Student Disability Services (SDS)**

In keeping with the University's policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations is welcome to meet with me privately. All conversations will be kept confidential. Students requesting any accommodations will also need to meet with Jason Luchs in the Office of Student Disability Services, who will conduct an intake, and if appropriate, provide an academic accommodation notification letter to you to bring to me. SDS assists students with disabilities in need of academic and programmatic accommodations as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

<http://www.newschool.edu/student-services/disability/>.

This is version 2.0.1 of this syllabus. [Download the most recent version](#) or [fork this syllabus on GitHub](#).