GIMP Practice 2

Refer to the IntroLayers.ppt for additional help with these concepts.
You may also refer to Chapter 3 in, Beginning GIMP: From Novice to Professional (not required).
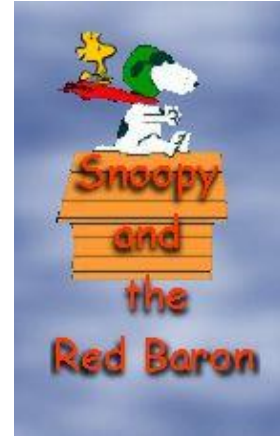
If you want to view a screencast of your instructor you can use these three links. You will need a Flash plug-in for these screencasts.
http://yoda.tc.uvu.edu/barthoki/ScreenCasts/GIMPPractice2/GIMPPractice2PartA.swf
http://yoda.tc.uvu.edu/barthoki/ScreenCasts/GIMPPractice2/GIMPPractice2PartB.swf
http://yoda.tc.uvu.edu/barthoki/ScreenCasts/GIMPPractice2/GIMPPractice2PartC.swf

Copy the GIMP2 zipped folder from the GIMPPractice2 folder in the Practice Exercises in Canvas to your desktop.
Extract the Gimp2 folder and place it on your Desktop. In this practice you will be creating this image:

Using Layers, Effects and Text in GIMP
Step 1. Start the GIMP.
　　　Set the background color to be a light blue.
　　　Make sure blue is the color behind in the color area of the toolbar. Open a new file in GIMP.
　　　Set the Canvas size to have 400 pixels Width and 300 pixels Height.
　　　Click on the Advanced Options in the Create a New Image Dialog box.
　　　Set the Fill With color to be the background Click the OK button.
　　　If the Layers Panel is not already opened, use the Dialog=>Layers menu option to open it.
　　　Notice you now have one layer named background in your image.
　　　Click on the layer name once to select it and rename the layer to: Blue Skies.
　　　Save the file as SnoopyFinal.xcf in the GIMP2/Images folder.

Step 2. Next we will open some existing images as a layer.
　　　Choose the File=>**Open as Layers** option.
　　　Browse to find the Snoopy2.gif in the Images folder of this practice folder and click Open.
　　　You can click on the Move Tool in the GIMP toolbar. Make sure the Move Active Layer is selected in the Tool Options.
　　　Click on Snoopy to move him to the right.
　　　Open another image as a layer using the File=>**Open as** Layers option.
　　　Browse to find the Woodstock.gif file and click Open.

Step 3. Next we will add cloud effects to the background.
　　　Select the Background layer.
　　　Choose Filters=>Render=>Clouds=>Solid Noise.
　　　Check Randomize. Adjust the X and Y size until you have a cloud pattern you want and then click on OK.
　　　To get a blue and white coloration in the clouds you want, choose Color=>**Colorize**.
　　　Adjust the **Hue** to the right until you have a blue color.
　　　Now adjust the **Lightness** to the right until you have the light blue you want

then click OK.
If you want you can also adjust the **Saturation** a bit to the right.

Step 4. Next, we will need to scale Woodstock to be much smaller.
Click on the layer with Woodstock in it.
Notice there is a selection rectangle now around Woodstock.
Choose the Scale Tool from the GIMP toolbar and click on Woodstock.
This will bring up the Scale Dialog box. Make sure the Width and Height are chained or locked together.
Decrease the current width to about 25 px. Notice the height scales proportionately. Then click on Scale to complete the scaling operation.
Now click on the Move Tool in the GIMP toolbar and move Woodstock to sit on Snoopy's scarf.

Step 5. When text is added, it is automatically put in its own layer with a transparent background.
Click on the Text tool in the GIMP toolbox.
In the Text Options area of the toolbox, set the Font to be Comic Sans MS.
Set the Size to be 25.
Set the Color to be Red.
And set the Justify to be centered.
Now click your cursor on the image.
The Gimp Text Editor dialog box should appear.
Type the following: Snoopy and the Red Baron. Put returns where you want.
Click on the Text Layer.
Choose the Move Tool from the GIMP toolbox.
Move the text to the right of your Snoopy image.

Step 6. A drop shadow can be used to make your text stand out better on a background.
Click on the Text layer.
Choose the duplicate layer icon at the bottom center of the Layers Panel.
Click on the Text label in the layer and rename the new layer Shadow. Hit enter.
Click on the red text layer and rename it: Red Text. Hit enter.
Use the layer down arrow to move this Shadow layer below the other Text layer,
Click on the eye (Visibility icon) of the Red Text layer to hide it.
With the Shadow Text layer selected. Use the Text tool and click on the Shadow text.
Go to the Text options panel of the GIMP toolbox and change the color from red to black.
Change the Font to be Comic Sans MS Bold.
Then select the Filter=>Blur=>**Gausian Blur** menu option to blur the shadow text.
Click the Preview to see the shadow effects.
Modify the Horizontal and Vertical Blur Radius until you achieve the shadow effect you want.
When you are done, click on OK.

Step 7. We will now need to adjust your text and crop the image.

In the Layers Panel, click on the eye of the Red Text layer so it is visible again.

Use the Move tool to select the Red Text.

Use the arrow keys to move the red Snoopy text where you want it over the Shadow layer.

Now in the Layer dialog, click on the chain to the left of the Snoopy Text icon and the chain to the left of the Shadow Text icon.

This will now chain the two Text layers together.

Use the Move tool to place the Red Text and Shadow text over the top of Snoopy's doghouse.

The word Snoopy should be at the top of the dog house.

Use the Cropping tool from the GIMP toolbox to crop where you want around the Snoopy image.

Holding down the left mouse button, drag a rectangle around the image where you want to crop it.

You can use the corner rectangles to change your cropping area.

Double click in the middle of the image to perform the crop.

We will now save the image in its XCF form again so we preserve the layers if we ever want to come back and modify the image.

Step 8. Now we will export this final image as a JPEG file. XCF files are not supported as Web graphics by browsers, so you will need to save your image in a Web usable format.

Choose Save as from the File menu.

Save the image as SnoopyAndWoodstock.jpg. Choose the file extension as JPEG.

When you are prompted to Flatten the image to remove transparency, choose Export.

Set the JPEG compression to 80 and click OK.

You now have a cool JPEG image you have created.

Conclusion: Layers are the most useful feature of GIMP and many other graphical applications use this feature also. Text can be enhanced by adding effects and styles. Remember to always save your GIMP files as their native format, XCF. This will allow you to go back and modify the file if necessary. If exporting your file for the web, save your graphics as either a GIF, PNG or JPEG file. If using transparency, you can export your image as a PNG or GIF file. Have fun creating your own graphics.