

Parsons School of Design
BFA Communication Design

Core Lab Interaction

PUCD 2126; CRN 3185
Spring 2018
Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:40 a.m.
63 5th Ave., Rm. 306

Brendan Griffiths
griffitb@newschool.edu
2 W. 13th St., 4th Fl., New York, NY 10011
(212) 229-8900 x1544
Office hours by appointment only
Course homepage: <https://interactionlab.glitch.me/>

Course Description

This course serves as a complement to Core Studio Interaction. The assignments are built to work in tandem with the projects students are developing in the studio class. The lab is designed around a series of small workshops that teach beginning and intermediate interaction design through a hands-on engagement with HTML and CSS.

Learning Outcomes

By the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply skills in HTML
 - Standards: W3C, the World Wide Web Consortium: W3C recommendations as standards
 - Understand the difference between programming and markup
 - Title, Meta (keywords/descriptions); !DOCTYPE and Document Type Definition
 - HTML tags and the HTML Element Syntax including opening/closing tags, nested structures.
 - HTML Attributes: class, id, style, title
 - Headings, Paragraphs and Formatting
 - Links, lists, forms and images
 - The Box Model
 - HTML5 Semantic/Structural elements
 - HTML5 Media Elements

2. Apply skills in CSS
 - Cascading Style Sheets, their storage in external CSS files and reference in HTML
 - Styling backgrounds, text, links, lists and forms
 - Styling the Box Model: border, outline, margin, padding
 - Working with dimensions, positioning, display, floating and align
 - Color systems
 - Manipulating images with CSS
 - Using Webfonts
 - Using CSS to create interactive elements
 - Media queries and responsive design
3. Understand the meaning of JavaScript/JQuery
 - Basic idea of JavaScript and JQuery
4. Prepare Images for the Web
 - Digital Image Formats - what are they for and how are they created professionally: GIF, JPG, PNG
 - Working for different resolutions
5. Understand Web Environments
 - Getting it online: Purchasing URL/Webspace
 - Use FTP to upload files
 - Use in-browser tools to troubleshoot and amend HTML/CSS
 - Search engine optimization
 - The role of content management systems / blog systems

Assessable Tasks

Homepage

Build an index page for yourself using the structure and tags we have discussed thus far in class. Consider how the page could reflect your particular design sensibility. We will be using this page as a springboard to link to the projects you make this semester, so think about how the structure could evolve to accommodate a living archive of work. *Due: May 8*

Hi, My Name Is

Design a website, using only HTML, which introduces yourself to the class. Your website should consist of at least 10 individual pages, and should reveal at least 10 facts about yourself, other than your name. *Due: January 30*

Class Page

Using the existing HTML structure of our course homepage, create your own CSS file for the site. Consider how the information it contains could become more legible or useful by changing the arrangement, color, or size of the elements on the page. *Due: February 27*

Difference and Repetition

Select a piece of media and use CSS to style 20 differentiated repetitions of the media they've chosen. Repetitions will be rendered as "scenes" which can be traversed with a "control interface". Experiment with a variety of methods for measurement, positioning, and sizing your chosen media. *Due: April 3*

Human Computer Interface

Construct an interactive "toy" that receives input from a mouse or keyboard. The toy should either form a set of randomized outputs based on a standardized input, or precisely map expectations from input to output in a deterministic manner. *Due: May 8*

Final Grade Calculation

Assessment	%
Attendance and Class Participation	30%
Homepage	5%
Hi, My Name Is	5%
Class Page	10%
Difference and Repetition	20%
Human Computer Interface	30%
Total	100%

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic or Activity	Assignments and Readings
1	01/24	Introduction, Review Syllabus, Getting Started, Working Environment	Assignments: Homepage, Hi, My Name Is Reading: Alexander Galloway, <i>Protocol</i>
2	01/30	Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML), Links, Images	Due: Hi, My Name Is Reading: Marc Andreessen, <i>Why Software is Eating the World</i>
3	02/06	Introduction to Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)	Due: Hi, My Name Is (Revised) Assignment: Class Page Reading: Dan Michaelson, <i>On Exactitude in Science</i>
4	02/13	CSS Continued, The Box Model, Using the Web Inspector	Reading: Rob Giampietro, <i>Hover States</i>
5	02/20	Advanced CSS	Reading: J. R. Carpenter, <i>A Handmade Web</i>
6	02/27	HTML and CSS Review	Due: Class Page Assignment: Difference and Repetition
7	03/06	Midterm Evaluations	Reading: Jonathan Lethem, <i>The Ecstasy of Influence</i>
8	03/13	Introduction to JavaScript (JS)	Reading: Paul Ford, <i>What is Code</i>
9	03/27	JS Continued	Reading: Frank Chimero, <i>The Web's Grain</i>
10	04/03	Advanced JS	Due: Difference and Repetition Assignment: Human Computer Interface Reading: Mark Weiser and John Seely Brown, <i>The Coming Age of Calm Technology</i>
11	04/10	Introduction to jQuery, DOM Manipulation	Reading: Daniel van der Velden, <i>The Meme</i>
12	04/17	Domain Names, Putting it All Together	Reading: Gene McHugh, <i>Post Internet: Can One be Bad at the Internet?</i>
13	04/24	Work Session	
14	05/01	Work Session	
15	05/08	Final Presentations	Due: Homepage, Human Computer Interface

Recommended Reading

- Marc Andreessen, *Why Software is Eating the World* (2011)
- J. R. Carpenter, *A Handmade Web* (2015)
- Frank Chimero, *The Web's Grain* (2015)
- Paul Ford, *What is Code* (2015)
- Alexander Galloway, *Protocol* (2006)
- Rob Giampietro, *Hover States* (2013)
- Jonathan Lethem, *The Ecstasy of Influence* (2007)
- Gene McHugh, *Post Internet: Can One be Bad at the Internet?* (2010)
- Dan Michaelson, *On Exactitude in Science* (2007)
- Daniel van der Velden, *The Meme* (2013)
- Mark Weiser and John Seely Brown, *The Coming Age of Calm Technology* (1996)

Materials and Supplies

Students are required to obtain a free account at Glitch (<https://glitch.com/>) and bring their laptop to class each week.

Resources

The university provides many resources to help students achieve academic and artistic excellence. These resources include:

- The University (and associated) Libraries:
<http://library.newschool.edu/>
- The University Learning Center:
<https://www.newschool.edu/university-learning-center/>
- University Disabilities Service:
<https://www.newschool.edu/student-disability-services/>

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 contact Student Disability Service (SDS). SDS will conduct an intake and, if appropriate, the Director will provide an academic accommodation notification letter for you to bring to me. At that point, I will review the letter with you and discuss these accommodations in relation to this course.

Making Center

The Making Center is a constellation of shops, labs, and open workspaces that are situated across the New School to help students express their ideas in a variety of materials and methods. We have resources to help support woodworking, metalworking, ceramics and pottery work, photography and film, textiles, printmaking, 3D printing, manual and CNC machining, and more. A staff of technicians and student workers provide expertise and maintain the different shops and labs. Safety is a primary concern, so each area has policies for access, training, and etiquette that students and faculty should be familiar with. Many areas require specific orientations or trainings before access is granted. Detailed information about the resources available, as well as schedules, trainings, and policies can be found at <http://resources.parsons.edu/>.

Grading Standards

A student's final grades and GPA are calculated using a 4.0 scale. Please note that while both are listed here, the 4.0 scale does not align mathematically with the numeric scale based on percentages of 100 points.

Grade	Description
A	4.0 95 – 100% Work of exceptional quality, which often goes beyond the stated goals of the course
A–	3.7 90 – <95% Work of very high quality
B+	3.3 87 – <90% Work of high quality that indicates higher than average abilities
B	3.0 83 – <87% Very good work that satisfies the goals of the course
B–	2.7 80 – <83% Good work
C+	2.3 77 – <80% Above-average work
C	2.0 73 – <77% Average work that indicates an understanding of the course material; passable <i>Satisfactory completion of a course is considered to be a grade of C or higher.</i>
C–	1.7 70 – <73% Passing work but below good academic standing
D	1.0 60 – <70% Below-average work that indicates a student does not fully understand the assignments; Probation level though passing for credit
F	0.0 0 – <60% 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 Z

The grade of Z is issued by an instructor to a student 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.

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:

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 “F” by the Office of the Registrar.

Divisional, Program and Class Policies

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.

Canvas

Use of Canvas may be an important resource for this class. Students should check it for announcements before coming to class each week.

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

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.

Students are responsible for understanding the University's policy on academic honesty and integrity and must make use of proper citations of sources for writing papers, creating, presenting, and performing their work, taking examinations, and doing research. 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. The full text of the policy, including adjudication procedures, is found at <https://www.newschool.edu/about/university-resources/policies/>. Resources regarding what plagiarism is and how to avoid it can be found on the Learning Center's website: <https://www.newschool.edu/university-learning-center/student-resources/>.

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.

Intellectual Property Rights

<https://www.newschool.edu/about/university-resources/policies/>