

Parsons School for Design

Communication Design, Core Lab Interaction

PUCD 2126
CRN 3470
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Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:40 PM
63 Fifth Ave, Room 306
specific-making.com

Core Lab
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Core Studio
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as a complement to Core Studio Interaction. The assignments are build 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 end of this course, students will be able to:

Apply skills in HTML including:
HTML tags and element syntax;
The box model;
HTML5 semantic/structural elements;
HTML5 media elements

Apply skills in CSS including:
Storing styles in external CSS files;
Styling backgrounds, text, links, lists & forms;
Styling the box model;
Working with positioning;
Color systems;
Preparing images for the web;
Manipulating images with CSS;
Using webfonts;
Using CSS to create interactive elements;
Media queries and responsive design;

Apply skills in javascript including:
The basic principles of programing;
The uses of JavaScript & jQuery;
Variables, loops, arrays, functions and objects;
In-browser tools to troubleshoot code;

COURSE OUTLINE

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

1	1/24	Git, Command Line
2	1/31	Basic HTML
3	2/7	Intro to CSS
4	2/14	Positioning, Box Model
5	2/21	Detailed Positioning, Advanced Selectors
6	2/28	Adding Media (Photo/Video)
	3/2	<i>Last day to drop class</i>
7	3/7	Responsive Design
8	3/14	Transforms & Animations
	3/21	<i>No Class (Spring Break)</i>
9	3/28	Review HTML & CSS
10	4/4	Javascript I
11	4/11	jQuery I
12	4/18	jQuery II
13	4/25	Frameworks, APIs
14	5/2	Review Javascript/jQuery
15	5/9	Final Critique

ASSESSABLE TASKS

Studio will focus on concept, design, presentation, and execution. Lab will focus more in depth on programming. You will receive a grade from both professors. Full descriptions of each project will be posted online.

Assignment 1, Remake

The first half of the semester we will spend exploring the translation of a publication of your choice into a digital platform. The publication that you choose can reflect an interest of yours, a history, a memory, or a passing encounter. The choice made will have to be articulated in a small presentation. Choose a publication that you believe can carry a variety of messages in an interesting way. The platform we're looking to create should be able to carry the different media formats that the internet has to offer. As the semester progresses we'll infuse this new

platform with new points of view and new expressions. We will work on it becoming a complete expression that has your thoughts on typography, color, images, content, etc.

Assignment 2, A Systematic Approach

The first assignment after Spring Break will revolve around an item you have chosen from your surroundings. Again the choice will have to be articulated in a small presentation. We will work on breaking down the different elements of the chosen item and creating a system that would allow us to work rapidly on rethinking the design of the item or applying the design of the item to other expressions. The entire system will be contained on a website.

Assignment 3, The Interpreter

As machine learning takes over a lot of menial tasks, the role of the interpreter is becoming increasingly important. You as a designer can function as an art director, reader, recipient, author, and communicator. For this assignment you will take an already existing website and modify it according to what you want from it. This assignment revolves around the articulation of desired changes and what the results are of those changes when followed through rigorously.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Lab, Weekly exercises

In addition to these three major projects you will have a set of shorter assignments that will be assigned in Lab. These will typically last one to two weeks and will compliment the technical skills being taught.

Lab, Student Portfolio

You will be responsible for designing your github page. The github page should include a link to all of your assignments. All of the links must be functioning. You will be working on this page throughout the first half of the semester and we will review it at midterms.

MATERIALS

We'll be working primarily in Sublime Text, a text editor designed for writing code. Additionally we'll be exploring the command line through Terminal, an application that comes with all Macintosh computers. We'll save and archive our work through a version control system called Git and share our projects with one another using Github an online platform for sharing code. For showing design we'll use Sketch, a tool similar to Adobe Indesign but tailored to designing websites. Finally, we'll use Principle to prototype interactions. Laptops are required in class.

REQUIRED READING

There is no specific textbook for the course, but occasionally readings will be assigned that will be discussed the following week. Readings will be posted to the course homepage in PDF format.

RESOURCES

Sketch, <https://www.sketchapp.com>
Sublime Text, <http://www.sublimetext.com>
Github, <https://pages.github.com>
Principle, <http://principleformac.com>
iTerm, <https://www.iterm2.com>

Learning

Code Academy, <https://www.codecademy.com>
Eloquent Javascript, <http://eloquentjavascript.net>
Code School, <https://www.codeschool.com>
Learn to Code, <http://learn.shayhowe.com>

Programming

Stack Overflow, <https://stackoverflow.com>

Inspiration

Arena, <https://www.arena.na>
Hover States, <https://hoverstat.es>
Many Stuff, <https://www.manystuff.org>
Rhizome, <http://rhizome.org>

PARTICIPATION

Class participation is an essential part of class and includes:

- Keeping up with readings, assignments, and projects
- Contributing meaningfully to discussions and critiques
- Helping your classmates
- Participating in group work
- Being present and on time
- Asking questions

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are always to be posted to your website before arriving at Wednesday's class.

GRADING

Final grades are based on meeting deadlines, your execution of tasks given, and on your participation in class.

25%	Attendance
25%	Participation and Effort
50%	Projects and Assignments

- Is it on time?
- Did you challenge yourself technically & conceptually
- Did you follow the prompt?
- Are your ideas original, memorable, and thoughtful?
- Typography
- Execution

A	Exceptional quality, above and beyond
A-	Very high quality work
B+	High quality work demonstrating substantially higher than average abilities
B	Very good work that satisfies all requirements
B-	Good
C+	Above-average work
C	Average work, passable
C-	Below average, passing work but below academic standing

- D** Poor quality work, no demonstration of understanding or abilities
- F** 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.

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.

Grade 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 Registrar's Office.

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 the 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 by the instructor 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. Members of the faculty are expected to provide syllabi in which course objectives and assessment criteria are described, in writing, at the beginning of the term. The syllabus

should also articulate how attendance is assessed with respect to active participation. At Parsons, attendance and lateness are assessed as of the first day of classes. Students who register after a class has begun are responsible for any missed assignments and coursework. Students who must miss a class session should notify the instructor and arrange to make up any missed work as soon as possible. A student who anticipates an extended absence should immediately inform the faculty and his or her program advisor. Advance approval for an extended absence is required to ensure successful completion of the course. Withdrawal from the course may be recommended if the proposed absence would compromise a student's ability to meet course objectives. Finally, faculty are asked to notify the student's advisor for any student who misses two consecutive class sessions without explanation or who otherwise miss a significant portion of class time. Following two absences, students may be asked to speak with their advisor to review any impediments to their successful performance in class and, if so, to provide confirmation to the faculty member that such a conversation took place.

RELIGIOUS ABSENCES AND EQUIVALENT OPPORTUNITY

Pursuant to Section 224a of the New York State Education Laws, any student who is absent from school because of his or her religious beliefs will be given an equivalent opportunity to register for classes or make up any examination, study, or work requirements which he or she may have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days. The student must inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of any anticipated absences due to religious observance.

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.

CANVAS

All assignments and class resources will be posted to the class website at <http://specific-making.com/>.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Use of electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops) 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.

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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & HONESTY

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/>