

Parsons School of Design

Art, Media, & Technology

Currents: Motion Design for Interactions

PSAM 5600 - B - CRN 5551 – Fall 2018

Wednesdays 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm | 6 East 16th Street | Room 1206

Instructor: Shiwon Jang

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Office hours by email

Course Description

Currents: Motion Design for Interactions will provide advanced understanding of Motion as a design principle to enrich experience of audience in active spaces. Students will choose one domain from four options: web, VR, AR, and interactive installation, and form into groups to explore relevant tools and build projects from the ground up. They will be guided through the process of critical thinking, rapid prototyping, and technical implementation.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Have a thorough understanding of motion and interaction design principles
2. Speak fluently about design decisions and narrative strategies
3. Conduct self-initiative learning and technical implementation
4. Document design processes and write proposals for conferences/awards/grants
5. Learn industry standard practices and strong work ethics via collaborating with peers

Assessable Tasks

Assignments/Documentation

Assignments are due 2 hours before each class. Please submit your assignments to the shared Google Drive(link provided via email). Late assignments are not encouraged and will result in grade deduction. A thorough documentation is required for the completion of this course.

Class Participation/Presentations

Class discussion is an integral part of building effective learning environment. The faculty and students will share ideas and constructive criticisms with a respectful manner in and outside of the classroom.

Final Grade Calculation

Assignments:30%

Final Presentation: 40%

Class Participation: 20%

Attendance: 10%

Course Outline

This syllabus is subject to change if deemed necessary during the semester. Changes will be timely communicated in class and via email.

WEEK 1	08/29	Prelude: What is Interactive Motion Design? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, Syllabus Handed Out • [Discussion] Motion design principles • Reading: Material Design 	Assignment 01: Write a paragraph about your favorite interactive piece and post on Slack with a project link Due: 9/5
WEEK 2	09/05	Design for Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Discussion] Designing for Humans • Reading: The brief rant on the future of interactions design • Watch: How to keep players engaged 	Assignment 02: Write a proposal for the group project Due: 9/12
WEEK 3	09/12	Project Setup & Design Sprint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign groups, roles, and project goals • Reading: Design Sprint Kit 	Assignment 03: Write a creative brief for your group project Due: 9/26
WEEK 4	09/19	No class – Yom Kippur Holiday	
WEEK 5	09/26	Rough Concept Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Discussion] Systems Thinking • Reading: <i>Thinking in systems</i> by Donella H. Meadows • Watch: Tom Wujec: Got a wicked problem? First, tell me how you make toast 	
WEEK 6	10/03	Final Concept Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Discussion] Form follows function? • Reading: The Demise of 'Form Follows Function' 	
WEEK 7	10/10	Prototyping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Lesson] After Effects + Cinema 4D • In-class work session 	Assignment 04: Revise the class exercise and upload to the class Google folder Due: 10/17
WEEK 8	10/17	Prototyping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Lesson] Unity + Cinema 4D • In-class work session 	Assignment 05: Revise the class exercise and upload to the class Google folder Due: 10/24
WEEK 9	10/24	Prototyping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Lesson] WebGL + Blender • In-class work session 	Assignment 06: Revise the class exercise and upload to the class Google folder Due: 10/31

WEEK 10	10/31	Prototyping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Lesson] TBD • In-class work session 	Assignment 07: Revise the class exercise and upload to the class Google folder Due: 11/07
WEEK 11	11/07	Prototype Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker/Critic 	Assignment 08: Write a paragraph describing the purpose/function of the prototype Due: 11/14
WEEK 12	11/14	Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Discussion] Design and Technology • In-class work session • Reading: Three creatives tell us why coding is crucial to contemporary design • Watch: A 30-year history of the future 	
WEEK 13	11/21	No class – Thanksgiving Holiday	
WEEK 14	11/28	Rough Design Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Discussion] Ethics in Design • Reading: The only way is ethics • Watch: Creative Mornings—Jonathan Harris 	Assignment 09: Submit final project proposal Due: 12/05
WEEK 15	12/05	Production/Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Discussion] What's next? • Watch: The rise of unemployables • Course evaluation, peer review • In-class work session 	Assignment 10: Submit final documentation Due: 12/12
WEEK 16	12/12	Final Presentation/Demo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Critics 	

Required Formats

Unless specified all files need to be in the following formats:

- Video Files: H264, HD(1920 x 1080), with/without sound
- Image Files: JPG/PNG, 1920x1080 px, 72 dpi , 8 bit depth

Readings

There are no required textbooks for this class, but this might change during the semester.

Materials & Supplies

Hardware: Laptop, external hard drive for backup

Software: Adobe Creative Cloud (CC) 2018 Subscription, Cinema 4D, Unity, Blender

Accounts: Slack, University Google Drive Account

Resources

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

- [The University \(and associated\) Libraries](#)
- [The University Learning Center](#)
- [University Disabilities Service](#)

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 with which students and faculty should be familiar. 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 resources.parsons.edu.

Grading Standards

Undergraduate

A student's final grades and GPA are calculated using a 4.0 scale.

A [4.0]	Work of exceptional quality, which often goes beyond the stated goals of the course
A- [3.7]	Work of very high quality
B+ [3.3]	Work of high quality that indicates higher than average abilities
B [3.0]	Very good work that satisfies the goals of the course
B- [2.7]	Good work
C+ [2.3]	Above-average work
C [2.0]	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]	Passing work but below good academic standing
D [1.0]	Below-average work that indicates a student does not fully understand the assignments; Probation level though passing for credit

F [0.0] Failure, no credit

Graduate

A	Work of exceptional quality
A-	Work of high quality
B+	Very good work
B	Good work; satisfies course requirements
<i>Satisfactory completion of a course is considered to be a grade of B or higher.</i>	
B-	Below-average work
C+	Less than adequate work
C	Well below average work
C-	Poor work; lowest possible passing grade
F	Failure
GM	Grade missing for an individual

Grades of D are not used in graduate level courses.

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:

Undergraduate students: 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.

Graduate students: Work must be completed no later than one year following the end of the class. Grades of “I” not revised in the prescribed time will be recorded as a final grade of “N” by the Registrar’s Office.

College, School, Program and Class Policies

A comprehensive overview of policy may be found under [Policies: A to Z](#). Students are also encouraged to consult the [Academic Catalog for Parsons](#).

Canvas

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

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.

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.

Active Participation and Attendance

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.

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.

I will assess each student’s performance against all of the assessment criteria in determining your final grade.

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 on the university website under [Policies: A to Z](#). Resources regarding what plagiarism is and how to avoid it can be found on the [Learning Center's website](#).

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

The New School (the "university") seeks to encourage creativity and invention among its faculty members and students. In doing so, the University affirms its traditional commitment to the personal ownership by its faculty members and students of Intellectual Property Rights in works they create. The complete policy governing Intellectual Property Rights may be seen on the [university website, on the Provost's page](#).