

Parsons School of Design  
School of Art Media and Technology

Core Studio Interaction  
2529 PUCD, 2125 D  
Spring 2020

Tuesday, Thursday 7–9:40pm  
Becca Abbe [Studio]

Friday 4–7:40pm  
Janine Rosen [Lab]

Course Description:

This course exposes students to thorough and elaborate interactive concepts and techniques for applications. It is an extensive investigation in the interface, the mechanism, the controls and the aims of interactive works. Students will learn how to design and develop complex interactive projects and understand how to undertake a comprehensive research and direct their thinking process from brainstorming to final outcome. They will be given the tools to conceive, plan and develop an interactive system and they will become aware of the importance of their role in the development of interactive media.

Course Outline:

Week 1–4

Project 1: Typestracts

- Focus: manipulating typography in the browser
- Outcome: complete a single webpage

**Note:** No class on Thursday Jan. 23

Week 4–7

Project 2: Hypertext

- Focus: create a non-linear narrative
- Outcome: complete a network of webpages

**Spring break Mar. 16–22**

Week 7–10

Project 3: Navigation as Metaphor

- Focus: an IRL to URL mirror experience
- Outcome: complete a uniform system

Week 10–15

Project 4: Library

- Focus: organize a collection
- Outcome: complete an entire website populated with content

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, students will be able to...

1. Use a basic vocabulary of interactive media to both give and respond to critique productively. Including individual evaluation through the instructor, group critique in class, as well as outside critique.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the iterative making process in interaction design, using incremental methods such as research, prototyping, and evaluation to build toward more advanced work.
3. Conceptualize a project for the web and realize it through coding.
4. Evaluate the difference in designing interfaces for different kind of devices, their limitations and specific user situation including responsive websites for desktop

- and mobile.
5. Evaluate how typography and its variables are applied to interactive systems to support usability and create consistency.
  6. Research historic and current design precedents to contextualize own work.
  7. Be able to archive and document work that is printed, on screen or time based in a reflective manner for learning portfolio.
  8. Combine their artistic creativity with technology related to the internet.
  9. Demonstrate a comprehension of skills, methods, techniques and processes to realize interactive systems.

**Readings:**

Assigned readings will provide further context and inspiration for your project work. You are responsible for completing these readings before class and contributing to in-class discussions. Readings will be provided as PDFs.

**Materials and Supplies:**

Please bring your laptop to each class. Recommended software for writing and maintaining code will be directed in Lab.

**Assessable Tasks:**

You will be graded on the four main projects of this course, as well as your participation in weekly critiques and reading discussions.

**Assessment Criteria:**

Attendance & Class Participation (20%)  
Projects 1–3 (50%)  
Final project (30%)

**Learning Context:**

Studio Projects, Lab sessions, Critique and evaluation in classrooms, Teamwork, Lectures, discussions, and screenings by instructor and students.

**Class Policies:**

A. Communication Design Zero Tolerance Attendance Policy

In order to foster a studio learning environment where we all learn from peers and through dialogue, timely and regular attendance is a strict expectation for all Communication Design students. Students who are not present in class are unable to meet the learning outcomes of a Communication Design course.

For classes meeting once a week, students are allowed 2 absences. For classes meeting twice a week, students are allowed 4 absences. Any absence beyond the allowed absences will result in an automatic failure (F) for the course. There are no excused absences. This applies to each and every student.

A student is deemed tardy if a student fails to arrive within 15 minutes past the beginning of class. 2 tardies will result in an automatic absence. A student who arrives an hour past the beginning of class will be deemed absent.

B. No Late Work and Missed Critiques

Work that is submitted past the assignment due date will result in an automatic failure for the assignment. For work presented in critique, absence at the critique will result in an automatic failure for the assignment.

C. CD App

Information about upcoming CD Lectures, events from AIGA NY/TDC, the CD Library, and the CD Paper Store can be found on the CD App.

<https://cdparsons.glideapp.io/>

To install the app on your phone:

For iOS users:

1. Visit the link in Safari, tap on the "Share" icon located at the bottom of the page
2. Tap the "Add to Home Screen" button
3. Tap the "Add" button at the top right corner of the screen

For Android users:

1. Tap on the notification banner at the bottom of the page (alternatively, you can tap the "Add to Home Screen" option inside the menu at the top right corner of the screen)
2. Tap the "Add" button on the modal

#### D. Mandatory CD Lecture Attendance

Every fortnight, the Communication Design program hosts the CD Lectures Series that brings in practicing designers to share their work and practice with our community. The CD Lecture Series is an important part of achieving an understanding of contemporary design culture.

It is mandatory for students in Core Studio Typography and Core Studio Interaction to attend all lectures. Attendance is recorded. Each missed lecture will be recorded as 1 tardy.

Lecture dates can be found on the CD App (<https://cdparsons.glideapp.io/>).

#### 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, metal-working, 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](https://resources.parsons.edu).

#### Grading Standards:

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  
Satisfactory completion of a course is considered to be a grade of C or higher.

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

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:

This grade is to be assigned to students who have never attended or stopped attending classes. Exceptions can be made if the student has completed enough work to warrant a grade (including a failing grade), and arrangements have been made with the instructor(s) and the Dean's Office prior to grade submission. The Z grade does not calculate into the student's GPA.

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 the 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.

College, School, and  
Program Policies:

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.