

**Parsons School of Design**  
School of Art, Media and Technology  
Creative Computing  
PUCD 2035; CRN 3644  
Fall 2017  
9:00 – 11:40 AM; 63 5th Ave, Rm. 311

Brian Watterson  
[wattersb@newschool.edu](mailto:wattersb@newschool.edu)

**Course Website**  
<http://cc.brianwatterson.com>

**Course Description**

Creative Computing is designed to introduce students to programming as a creative medium-as a way of making and exploring. The coursework focuses on developing a vocabulary of interaction design principles which can then be applied across a range of platforms. Students are encouraged to experiment with various media, tools, and techniques, ultimately producing a portfolio of interactive and visual projects designed for the screen. An emphasis is placed on typography as it applies to a screen context, research-based problem solving and a "learning through making" approach to technical skill building. Historical and current interaction design precedents will be discussed.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental programming concepts
- Develop several visual & interactive projects
- Objectively present their design process and workflow
- Integrate a variety of media elements into their projects
- Problem solve with other students through reading other students' code
- Demonstrate the ability to research and learn unfamiliar technical topics.
- Concept projects that use code in a creative way

**Assessable Tasks**

**10 Tracks / 1 Album – *Due weekly***

In this section of Creative Computing, you'll create a concept album that explores a theme or idea of your choosing by making use of HTML, CSS, and Javascript to give form to those ideas. Each week you'll develop a track that incorporates newly learned techniques discussed in class. In the final weeks of the semester you'll refine and sequence your tracks and develop any additional materials necessary to complete the vision for your album.

**Final Grade Calculation**

Participation /Attitude / Attendance	30%
Individual Tracks, In-class, and Take-home assignments	50%
Album (final edit of all tracks, additional materials, etc)	20%
TOTAL	100%

## Course Outline

WEEK 1	8/29	Introductions and syllabus review. What is a computer? What is a web browser? What is a server? What is the internet?	
WEEK 2	9/5	What is HTML? What is CSS? What is Git? Working with Github as a server. <b>Introduce 10 Tracks / 1 Album</b>	
WEEK 3	9/12	HTML in detail, CSS basics, and Git review	Track 1
WEEK 4	9/19	CSS layouts and positioning	Track 2
WEEK 5	9/26	CSS review, What is Javascript? What is jQuery?	Track 3
WEEK 6	10/3	Troubleshooting and debugging <b>Tracks 1–4 group critique</b> <b><i>Midterm evaluations on or about this date</i></b>	Track 4
WEEK 7	10/10	Manipulating HTML elements with jQuery	Track 5
WEEK 8	10/17	Programming logic and loops – make the machine do the work!	Track 6
WEEK 9	10/24	jQuery review, logic and loops review	Track 7
WEEK 10	10/31	Group AMA session	Track 8
WEEK 11	11/7	Work Session	Track 9
WEEK 12	11/14	Individual meetings to discuss track consolidation, album container, and any additional materials	Track 10
WEEK 13	11/21	<b>No class (thurs schedule) for Thanksgiving break</b>	Work on track consolidation, album, and supplements
WEEK 14	12/28	Work session	Album and/or supplements
WEEK 15	12/5	Work session	Album and supplements
WEEK 16	12/12	<b>Last class - final critique</b>	

## Readings

There are no textbooks or readings for the course. I may assign individual readings relevant to each student's project.

## Materials and Supplies

Students are required to obtain a free account at GitHub (<http://github.com>) and bring a laptop to class each week.

## Resources

Class resources:

- A List Apart: <http://www.alistapart.com>
- CSS Layout: <http://learnlayout.com>
- Cloud9: <http://c9.io>
- Codecademy: <http://codecademy.com>
- Codrops CSS Reference: [http://tympanus.net/codrops/css\\_reference](http://tympanus.net/codrops/css_reference)
- Dash: <http://dash.generalassemb.ly>
- Discover Devtools: <http://discover-devtools.codeschool.com>
- GitHub: <http://github.com>
- HTML5 Boilerplate: <http://html5boilerplate.com>
- JSBin: <http://jsbin.com>
- jQuery: <http://jquery.com>
- p5.js: <http://p5js.org>
- Paper.js <http://paperjs.org>
- Stack Overflow: <http://stackoverflow.com>
- Sublime Text: <http://sublimetext.com>
- W3Schools: <http://w3schools.com>

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: <http://www.newschool.edu/learning-center>
- University Disabilities Service: [www.newschool.edu/student-disability-services/](http://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.

## Grading Standards

### Undergraduate

**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

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

**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 "WF" 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 <http://www.newschool.edu/policies/#> Resources regarding what plagiarism is and how to avoid it can be found on the Learning Center's website:

<http://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: <http://www.newschool.edu/policies/#>