

ELECTIVES

SP16.RISD.GD

Newly Formed Christopher Sleboda

1:10–6:10pm

This course focuses on advanced composition in Graphic Design and Typography using an array of materials, techniques and formats. Form remains an area of study in graphic design that does not need an application, only a surface. Emphasis will be placed on experimental form-making/image-making using generative and iterative approaches. Form need not follow function. Studio assignments are supported by lectures showing contemporary graphic form, from historical to contemporary work, that are effective and evocative. This elective aims to build a collection of work that can be shared with the larger graphic design community. New! Chris is co-founder of [Draw Down Books](#)

Type Design Richard Lipton

11:20am–4:20pm

This course is an overview of the basic principles of type design. The focus is on negative space, words, and readability. Students will gain a deeper understanding of typography and increased insight into existing typefaces. [Richard is a senior designer at Font Bureau](#)

Type & Image in Motion Franz Werner

1:10–6:10pm

We stand firmly planted in a visual world, surrounded by a universe of things to look at. Images flicker from televisions, iPads, computer monitors and more-as large as towering billboards and as small as compact cell phones. Such images provide us with clues about our environment, feeding our mind with information that we find useful for survival or for orientation purposes. But these very same images clutter the horizon and prevent us from discerning what is truly important. How do we tell them apart? The primary goal is to equip students with the skills necessary to create meaningful and intelligent images. Course content is tailored for three levels of experience - introductory, intermediate and advanced. Some of the class projects include documentary photography, film title design and music video. The works of Saul Bass, Bill Viola and Michel Gondry will be used as the "textbooks" for this course. Readings, film screenings and listening exercises accompany studio work. Some knowledge of Adobe Flash or After Effects or Final Cut Pro would be helpful but is not required. [See student work](#)

Graphic Design for the Web Andrew LeClair

1:10–6:10pm

Design is a crucial element in making a website that is accessible, exciting and effective. This course will look at ways of using fundamental graphic design principles and site design tools necessary to create sites that are strategic, interactive, energetic and visually imaginative. This course will also explore the rich history of designers, artists, and collectives that have used the web as a medium in various ways - from neon signs to tumblers to dahan to wordpress to flickr, looking for interesting, novel and alternative approaches to web design. [Note new instructor. See Andrew's work](#)

Web Programming John Ingta

1:10–6:10pm

This workshop combines the tactical skills needed to structure web pages with a looser more playful compositional mindset. Students are introduced to the structural elements and properties of HTML and CSS through hands-on demos and take-home assignments. Tight technical HTML drawings in week one give way to looser, full-screen abstract compositions in week two. Weeks three and four make use of animation and interactivity using CSS3 and jQuery. [Class site from 2015](#)

Shaping Language Lucinda Itchcock

8am–1pm

Writing is a flexible "material." It is a medium that molds to multiple forms: we "write" in tweets, texts, code, and pixels; abstraction, sculpture, art and news; for books, for screen, for public, and in private. While graphic designers have a deep kinship to the world of words, we are not always tasked with writing the words we shape. This class redefines the way we conceive of "writing" — We will approach the relationship between words/language/text and their form (media, material, mode) with a 21st century lens, asking: how might we as graphic designers explore language/writing/words through the combined and simultaneous act of making as writing and vice versa? [Class blog from 2015](#)

Type for Non-Majors Mark Laughlin

1:10–6:10pm

This introductory course is intended for non-majors interested in learning the basic principles of typography including the study of letterforms, type classification, legibility, organization and hierarchy, as well as text applications, grid systems and page layout. Typography will be explored as both a means of communication and a vehicle for expression.

Computational Technology & Culture Carl Lostritto

11:20am–4:20pm

This course addresses computation in art and design in four sections: 1) generative algorithms; 2) interaction-oriented tools and responsive systems; 3) collective and open systems; and 4) computational thinking throughout the historical continuum of art and design. The course will emphasize canonical computational texts. Students will respond with self-directed and collaborative projects in the medium of computer programming. The final project is understood as a micro-thesis that will draw from students' ongoing work and/or disciplinary codes of knowledge. Experience in at least one of the following programming languages is required: Processing, Javascript, Max/MSP, Pure Data, C++ or Python. Coding as a technology with social and implications to craft and authorship will be explored through pedagogy of code sharing and collaborative learning. [Outcomes in programming cultures across languages and disciplines will be one of the motive forces in this course, which is enthusiastically open to all majors. Relatedly, the course will use a parallel lecture series component to draw from perspectives outside of the RISD community. New!](#)

Design for Publishing Ernesto Aparicio

1:10–6:10pm

This course will cover all aspects of designing comprehensive print and photographic books. We will examine the use of type in layouts, editing images, grids, scale, and pacing. Particular attention will paid to the aesthetics of design production, including the worst, best, and aesthetic qualities of paper, printing, binding, color separation, and advanced techniques in reduction, family duotone and three-tone in black and white photography. In the first part of the semester students will design the layout and the corresponding dust jacket for a photographic book. The material will include a number of original black and white photographs from one of the very well known French photographers. In the second part of the semester, students will be given the choice between designing a book based on their own interest and completing a book design project using assigned material.

Exhibit Design Douglass Scott

8am–1pm

This course will study the presentation of information in a designed environment: the exhibit. The theme, context, and conditions of this exhibit will be assigned. Study emphasis will be on integrative communication activity of all elements involved, e.g., time, space, movement, color, graphics, 3-D forms, objects, instructions, text, and constructions.

Lies, Damn Lies and Data Vis Christian Swinehart

1:10–6:10pm

Charts and graphs have an indisputable aura of objectivity and yet, much like statistics, they can use this power to either elucidate or mislead. What makes an information graphic "trustworthy" and how do designers know that their work is telling the "whole story"? In this course we will deal with the mechanics of collecting & processing data from the local environment and the larger world. Eschewing the expected line graphs and pie charts, students will explore different ways of communicating the data's meaning in a quantitatively rigorous and visually engaging way. Projects will involve the use of scripting languages, web scraping, databases, and other numerical tools to transform data into something that is understood rather than simply "seen." [Class site from 2015](#)

TEXTperience/TEXTperimentse

8am–1pm

With emphasis on open search and experimentation this course explores how we experience the visible word. We will consider how typographic form can serve that purpose to read, frame, engage and inspire the depth and breadth of meaning. After brief introductory assignments to establish common ground, the course format becomes an open laboratory for individual (or collaborative) interests and inquiries. Participants are encouraged to experiment with the visible word such as to explore: the de/reconstruction of texts; type in 3-d space, or in motion, or in digital media; words and the sensory experience of materiality, sound, projection; text as poetry in public environments; visual and concrete poetry. Topics for inquiry can range from the practical to the poetical, to the purely experimental. Course work can supplement other course interests (especially graduate thesis work and degree projects).

Brand Identity Design Richard Rose

8am–1pm

Branding-or the development of an identity and an identity system-is a critical skill practiced by today's designers. Before we can design a brochure or a web site or an interface, there must be an identity to frame and influence the medium. Branding as a discipline not only requires the ability to design logos, but to think strategically about a company's ethos and mission. Having thought strategically about ethos or mission not only positions a designer to create an identity and identity system but to influence the way a company or organization conducts all of its communications.

Poster Design Tom Wedell

1:10–6:10pm

This course will focus on the poster as a means of expressing a strong point of view. It will advance your experience with two-dimensional form, and address critical relationships between type, image, and message at a large scale. The studio assignments will be supported with lectures about the history of the poster, international contemporary poster design, and future possibilities and contexts for the poster format.

Mapping Information Douglass Scott

1:10–6:10pm

The visualizing of information into graphic form is one of the oldest forms of graphic design, and is one of the essential areas of professional design engagement. This course deals with the organization and analysis of data, and the concepts and methods of visualizing information. Using information structure and visual systems of form, color, and typography, students will work projects which communicate complex information through the use of maps, graphs, charts, and diagrams. These projects will explore issues of mapping, hierarchy, location, time, comparison, motion, format, and the use of symbolic visual language.

Digital Printing Techniques Jose Menendez

8am–1pm

This workshop provides students with an introduction to the use of digital fabrication tools and an overview of their applications in both art and design. The course will function as a gateway to Co-Works. Through technical demos and class projects, students are trained in the proper use of both the laser cutter and UV printer. The course explores the theoretical implications of this technology and situates it within the context of contemporary art and design practices. Through slide presentations, readings, and class discussions, students are encouraged to think critically about the role of digital tools in contemporary art and design and in their own practices. Students develop hybrid approaches; incorporating both "traditional" and "new" processes. Class projects encourage experimentation, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration as well as provide opportunities for individual exploration. Expected to be listed in Web Adviser by Feb 1. [New!](#)

Screenprinting

1:10–6:10pm

More information soon. Expected to be listed in Web Adviser by Feb 1

Print to Screen Ryan Waller

1:10–6:10pm

This course will investigate the unique challenges graphic designers face working across print and digital interfaces, and the opportunities for these spaces to have a dialogue with each other. Students will develop strategies for creating coherent visual and conceptual relationships that bridge this divide. How can responsiveness translate to print? What is the digital equivalent of a french-fold binding? Can a website be a timecapsule? Can a book be refreshed? Available in Web Adviser closer to Dec 1. [Ryan is a partner at Other Means](#)

Editorial Design for Screen Dylan Greif

1:10–6:10pm

How can you draw on your foundations in graphic design to make reading experiences for the screen? What aspects of the craft translate, and what needs fresh exploration? This class covers basic HTML/CSS, wireframes, and flow diagrams, but it is not about "designing and coding a website." Students will learn to compose dynamic forms, tell engaging stories, and make meaning in digital environment. After experimenting with a series of form-led studies, the course turns to narrative design on screen. What are the components of a story? What are the needs and expectations of digital readers/viewers, and how can we design reading experiences that both serve and stir them? Where is the overlap between reader experience and user experience, between graphic design and product design? The semester's work not only engages the challenges that editorial web designers and digital storytellers in the industry face today, but asserts that designers should continue to re-think and re-assess their practice, whatever the future brings. [New! Dylan is design director of Atavist](#)

Narrative Design in Motion Blammett Nurosi

8am–1pm

In this studio, the first question raised is also the most complex: what qualifies a string of events as visual narrative discourse? This studio explores this question with assignments that increase in formal complexity throughout the semester, progressing from traditional type and image forms to more complex installations involving video arts, sound motions, film titles, web design, environmental and public art installation, logos, music clips and billboard animations. Students will learn to think kinetically, with ideas and projects that enhance communicative voices. The studio also introduces principle theories of narrative discourse and sign systems. [New! See student work from Hammett's previous classes](#)

Computational Utopias Chris Novello

1:10–6:10pm

Three decades ago, the Macintosh proposed a scifi birth to pop culture. It advertised a utopic vision of human-computer creativity to mass audiences. By remixing military-industrial academic fragments, a product of military research created a new human space. This decade, the planet is bursting with smartphones; billions of people will carry globally networked pocket computers, each outfitted with sensors that defy the material world. We now have quantities, ratios, and kinds of data unlike anything humankind has ever seen. Individual biological minds can't reason at network speeds, so we're teaching them to do it instead. If the data center is today's mainframe, where a Macintosh hiding in the next decade? If your phone's camera is the next mouse, what will it click on? The machine is learning. In the next events humanism, what are 21st century creative tools? What do network literacy and 21st century citizenship look like for the programmer? Is the dichotomy desirable? How much of this is just a design problem? We'll explore the topics with studio work and seminar-style discussion. Studio work will include creating interactive videos, webmedia, interaction design, and beyond. Prototypes and design fictions are welcome. Programming experience is not explicitly required. [See student work from previous classes](#) [Note new instructor. See Douglass Scott's work](#) [reorient computer culture is must. Available in Web Adviser closer to Dec 1. Class site from 2015](#)

Grad. Visiting Designers Michael Rock + Keetra Dean Dixon + Luna Maurer

1:10–6:10pm

This graduate-only course provides contact with top practitioners and theorists in four intensive workshops over the semester. The course objective is to provide graduates contact and interactions with national and international designers involved in a range of professional practice and public discourse of graphic design. Each workshop will consider what provokes, inspires, and informs your working methods, and the role that "publication" plays in the communication of your ideas. Each session begins with a Thursday evening lecture, a Friday afternoon through Saturday workshop, and a Sunday midday critique.

Book Structures TBA

1:10–6:10pm

This hands-on workshop covers various traditional book bindings, along with innovative book structures. Book formats in relation to content will be discussed. Aspects of design, layout, typography, paper and book production will be covered.

WORKSHOPS

3D Simulations Claudia Sola

1:10–6:10pm

This workshop is a hands-on experience where students will learn how 3D modeling is beneficial in conceiving, prototyping and presenting dimensional work. Graphic designers are increasingly using 3D modeling to plan and represent designs intended for exhibits, environmental graphics and signage. This workshop brings the necessary software and conceptual fluency to help designers make work in 3D. These designs will influence 2D deliverables as well as those intended for the built environment. Students will learn Rhinoceros for Mac. No prior experience required. Expected to be listed in Web Adviser by Dec 1.

