Parsons School for Design
Communication Design
Core Studio Interaction
PUCD 2125 H; CRN 5424
Spring 2016

9–11:40am
Tuesday (63 Fifth Ave, Rm. 306)
Friday (63 Fifth Ave, Rm. 620)

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Instructor (Studio)
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# 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.

# Questions

Within the context of this class, programming will be treated as both an extension of design (in a visual sense), and as a form of design in its own right. You should approach every exercise and project with intentionality and purpose.

- What does it do? Why?
- Can it be easily repeated?
- Is it rewarding?
- What is the input, and how has it been transformed to create an interesting output?
- How does the form and interaction suit the concept or problem?

# Learning Outcomes

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

- Use a basic vocabulary of interactive media to both give and respond to critique productively.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the iterative making process in interaction design, using incremental methods such as prototyping, user research and evaluation to build toward more advanced work.
- Conceptualize a product for the web and realize it through coding.
- Evaluate how typography and its variables are applied to interactive systems to facilitate orientation, support usability and create consistency.
- Research historic and current design precedents to contextualize one's own work.
- Be able to archive and document work that is printed, on screen or time based in a reflective manner
- Combine artistic creativity with technology related to the internet
- Demonstrate a comprehension of skills, methods, techniques and processes to realize interactive systems

# Materials & Accounts

- Fully charged laptop. Students should expect to bring this to every class.
- Personal server space (provided by instructor)
- Adobe Creative Suite (primarily InDesign, Illustrator)
- Fetch
- Sublime Text
- Google Chrome
- JSFiddle (recommended)

# Participation

Class participation is an essential part of class and includes:

- Keeping up with readings, assignments and projects
- Contributing meaningfully to class discussions
- Helping your classmates and allowing them to help you
- Active participation in group work
- Coming to class regularly and on time

# Assignments

Assignments are to be posted to your server by 11:59pm on the evening before Tuesday's class. You will be required to email me every Tuesday evening before class. This is NOT optional! Your email should contain the following:

- A link to your assignment hosted on your server space. In-progress is OK.
- 2 questions about the assignment, or about programming in general

Additional requirements may be added on a case-by-case basis. You will be notified of this in advance.

# 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%    In-class and take-home assignments and exercises
      — Are they done on time?
      — Did you challenge yourself technically and conceptually?
      — Are your ideas and the expression thereof original?

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 224-a 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

~~Use of Canvas may be an important resource for this class. Students should check it for announcements before coming to class each week.~~ All assignments and class resources will be posted to the class website at [ci.tiffhockin.info](ci.tiffhockin.info).

## 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/studentservices/disability/.

# Course Outline: Weeks 1–8

Rough outline of the semester. Subject to change.
Google calendar

| Date | Agenda | Assignment |
|---|---|---|
| Week 1 | Introduction, Workspace, What is a server?, HTML Review | **P0: Project Archive**<br>Review Week 7, Due Week 15<br>**P1, Part 1: Hypertext Narrative**<br>Due Week 4<br>**Readings:**<br>Rock, "Fuck Content"<br>Staples, "Typography and the Screen" |
| Week 2 | Typography for variable contexts, Advanced HTML | **Exercise 1: Typesetting with HTML & CSS**<br>Due Week 2 |
| Week 3 | HTML Review, CSS continued, Wireframing and diagramming | Revise & refine narrative based on in-class feedback |
| Week 4 | HTML & CSS review, Introduction to JS<br>Critique (Project 1, Part 1) | **P1, Part 2: After the Event**<br>Due Week 5 |
| Week 5 | Added value vs. added complexity, Advanced JS<br>Critique (Project 1, Part 2) | **P2, Part 1: Observations (Physical & Digital)**<br>Due Week 6<br>**Listen / Watch:**<br>99% Invisible: Guerilla Public Service<br>99% Invisible/Vox: It's Not You. Bad Doors are Everywhere |
| Week 6 | Interface as opinion, Questioning existing structures, Observing user engagement<br>Critique / Discussion (Project 1, Part 1) | **P2, Part 2: Interventions (Physical & Digital)**<br>Due Week 7 |
| Week 7 | Critique (Project 1, Part 2)<br>Midterm Review | Revise & refine designs based on in-class feedback<br>**Reading:**<br>Ford, "What is Code?" |

# Course Outline: Weeks 9–15

Continued

| Date | Agenda | Assignment |
|------|--------|------------|
| Week 8 | Setting expectations via design, Constraints, Typography + dynamic content<br>Review Chat Proposals | **Project 3: Chat**<br>Due Week 10<br>**Reading:**<br>Shirky, "Group as User: Flaming and the Design of Social Software" |
| *Break* | *No class (Spring Break)* | Revise & refine based on in-class feedback; build out functional chat program (focus on HTML and JS) |
| Week 9 | Work Session | Revise & refine based on in-class feedback. Focus on CSS. |
| Week 10 | Critique (Project 3) | **Project 4: Final Project**<br>Due: Week 15 |
| Week 11 | Review Proposals | Revise & refine proposals based on in-class feedback |
| Week 12 | Work Session | Build project (focus on HTML & JS) |
| Week 13 | Work Session | Revise & refine based on in-class feedback, begin to incorporate CSS |
| Week 14 | Work Session | Revise & refine based on in-class feedback |
| Week 15 | Critique (Final Project) | **Final revisions due by Sunday, May 15** |