COMD 1100 GRAPHIC PRINCIPLES 1 Instructor: Carol Diamond

**ASSIGNMENT 1---- LINE** – POWER AND FRAGILITY 2 week project

The goal of Assignment #1 is to use the Design Element of Line to evoke a mood or a place or an atmosphere in an **abstract** composition **without** the help of specific or realistic subject matter. Line used will be geometric in nature, derived from the shapes: **circle** (contains arcs of all sizes), **square** (contains all vertical and horizontals) and **triangle** (contains any diagonal). Variables will include size, amount, direction, width, composition. Design principles used will be repetition, contrast, overlap, rhythm, scale, harmony. Final Designs will be done in ink.

Two specific words will be given to you to act as prompts and which will suggest concepts, things, moods, or states of mind. One is POWER and one is FRAGILITY.

1). Ideation: **First** you will write down on a piece of notebook paper or sketchpaper two lists of at least 10 words or phrases under the headings POWER and FRAGILITY. The words or phrases are things, feelings, or thoughts that come to mind when you think of POWER and when you think of FRAGILITY.

2). Thumbnail sketches (small idea sketches) On sketch pages you will create between 6-10, small square frames roughly 2” x2”, with small borders between them, drawn without a ruler.

One set will examine the idea of POWER and one set will examine the idea of FRAGILITY. In these frames, you will explore various line designs, coming directly or indirectly from the words you wrote down, which express your ideas visually,

IN AN ABSTRACT MANNER AND WITHOUT REPRESENTATIONAL SUBJECT MATTER. You are attempting to EVOKE the subject/idea without describing it.

Each design will employ ONLY ONE TYPE OF GEOMETRIC LINE – derived from EITHER the SQUARE, CIRCLE OR TRIANGLE. You may NOT combine shapes.

3) Critique: You will consult with a partner and get feedback on your thumbnails as to the best 2 designs for each PROMPT, so, 2 for POWER and 2 for FRAGILITY.

Refinement and Iteration: On a sheet of Bristol paper, you will create 4 rows of 3, 2”x2” frames which will result in a total of 12 frames, made with a ruler and borders. You will now use drafting tools such as ruler, compass, templates, to create clean presentation.

In each row, you will make iterations (variations) of each chosen design, “tweaking” them to improve the design.

4) Critique: Consult again with your neighbor/design partner to pick the most successful design for each row. Again, you will have two ideas to express POWER and two ideas to express FRAGILITY.

5). Final: On another sheet of Bristol paper, make 4, 4”x4” squares, with borders, and scale up your final designs in black pens, using thick and thin line widths.

Designs must show use of one single line form (derived from square, circle, OR triangle)

\*Designs should have variety of line density, thick to thin.

\*Designs should use geometric drafting tools successfully to create clean presentation and strong visual impact.

\*Designs should show strong use of the white space—the negative/positive areas should be in balance and act upon one another in a dynamic way to create effective composition.