New York City College of Technology

The City University of New York

COMD 1162 Section D030 • Raster/Vector Graphics • Tuesday 8:00 - 11:20 am

Fall 2023 • In Person

Professor Maureen Neuringer

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Course Description

Basic concepts related to the two fundamental digital graphic forms (raster and vector graphics) and learning best uses and practices for each. This course covers basic digital imaging terminology and techniques including size, resolution, color space, file elements, measurements, file formats, and scanning software and hardware. Class projects require students to explore the meaning of communication through design and how it correlates with client satisfaction and target audience. Students become proficient with both raster and vector applications, such as Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator.

2 class hours, 2 lab hours, 3 credits

Prerequisites

CUNY proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics or concurrent enrollment in ENG 092R, ESOL 022R or 032R; ENG 092W, ESOL 021W, or ESOL 031W; MAT 0630 or MAT 0650 as required.

Course Overview

Course Focus: This is a project-oriented course designed to introduce **vector art (Illustrator)** and **continuous tone digital imaging (Photoshop)** with the tool set required of today's designers and graphic artists.

Recommended Text: **Adobe Illustrator Classroom in a Book 2023, by Brian Wood**

SBN-13: 978-0137967179

ISBN-10: 0137967179

Adobe Photoshop Classroom in a Book 2023, by Brian Wood

SBN-13: 978-0137965892

SBN-10: 0137965893

Adobe Press published by Peachpit Press for both books

Required Materials: Jump/Thumb Drive (2GB), 3-Ring Binder (Learning Journal) for notes, paper, pens and pencils

Grade Allocation: 30% Labs, Critique

30% Homework Projects

20% Midterm Project

20% Final Project

If a student finds they will not be able to present or hand in a project on the scheduled due date, it is their responsibility to notify the instructor PRIOR to the due date and request alternate arrangements. Points will be deducted for late projects and missed critiques. It's better to turn in incomplete projects than late projects. If you turn in your work on time, you will have the opportunity to rework to improve your grade.

Academic Integrity Standards:

You are responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by the NYC College of Technology Student Handbook, "Student Rights & Responsibilities," section "Academic Integrity Standards." Academic dishonesty of any type, including cheating and plagiarism is unacceptable. "Cheating" is misrepresenting another student's efforts/work as your own. "Plagiarism" is the representation of another person's work, words or concepts as your own. Information in reports or other academic assignments from sources must be accompanied by a citation in either footnotes, bibliography or both.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to attend all classes. Each class contains NEW information that is valuable to furthering your skill set. Attendance is taken and is important to success in this class. Both absences and arrival more than 15 minutes after the start of class will be marked. If excessive, the instructor will alert the student that they may be in danger of not meeting the course objectives and participation expectations, which could lead to a lower or failing grade.

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 11:20-12:20pm
By Appointment:
Contact Professor Neuringer - mneuringer@citytech.cuny.edu

Class Schedule (tentative):

Class 01 - Tuesday, August 29, 2023 - Orientation

What you can expect to learn
- **Orientation** - Your responsibilities in this class. Getting to know each other and discuss your expectations for our class. Questions encouraged, Understanding your folder on Professor's External Hard Drive. Photos on iPad. Grade Book Pro. Communication.
- **Mac Interface** - Finder Menu, Buttons, Side Bars, File Menu, Edit Menu, View Menu, Window Menu, Dock
- **Setting up an email signature**

Adobe Illustrator

Class 02 - Tuesday, September 5, 2023 - Illustrator Workspace/Interface

What you can expect to learn
- **Illustrator Workspace** - Applications Bar, Control Panel, Panels, Tool Panel, Document Window, Status Bar.
- **Artboard Overiew** -
- **Tool Selection** - Text Hints, Keyboard Shortcuts, Hidden Tools
- **Resizing and Float Panels** - Double Column/Single Column, Collapse Panels, Close Panels/Reopen Panels
- **Zoom Tool** - Cmd + (Zoom in), Cmd + Minus (Zoom Out)
- **Views** - Preview, Outline, Appearances
- **Navigation** - Navigator, Space Bar
- **Accessing Color Books (Libraries)**

Class 03 - Tuesday, September 12, 2023 - Creating Shapes and Aligning Shapes

What you can expect to learn

- **Creating Vector Shapes** - See additional Notes
- **Selections** -Deselecting, Selecting Artwork beneath other artwork
- **Aligning Items** - Specific to each other, Horizontal/Vertical Align, Key Object, Align to Artboard, Distributing Objects, Distributing Spacing, Isolation Mode
- **Grouping Items** - adding to group, ungrouping
- **Isolation Mode** - working on individual elements of your work

Class 04 - Tuesday, September 19, 2023 - Pen Tool

What You Can Expect to Learn:

- Use to the **Pen Tool** to create complex shapes
- Create **paths and shapes** with the Pen Tool
- **Straight lines, Curved lines** (Bezier Curves)
- **Add and Remove Anchor Points** with the Pen Tool
- Explore the **Curvature Tool**
- **Converting Smooth Points to Corner Points**
- **Join Tool** – joining paths
- Using the **Scissor Tool** – Splitting a path
- Creating **Dashed Lines**
- Use of **Arrowheads**

Class 05 - Tuesday, October 3, 2023 - Gradients and Type

What you can expect to learn

- **Gradients** - See additional Notes
- **Deleting a Stroke** - Fill and Stroke boxes
- **Assigning the Gradient Fill** - Keyboard shortcuts - comma key – assign a solid color, period – assign a gradient, slash key – assign none
- Creating a **Rich Black** -
- **Gradient Angle, Reverse Gradient, Change location color stops, duplicating/deleting a color stops**
- **Working with Type**
    Point Type
    Area Type
    Importing Text
    Understanding Text Flow, Text Reflow and Threading Text
    Resizing the Text Area
    Changing Text Attributes
    Changing Font Color and Font Size
    Sampling Text
    Creating Text on a Path and Shapes

Class 06 - Tuesday, October 10, 2023 - Pathfinder and Blend Tools

What you can expect to learn
- Pathfinder Tools
  - The Shape Modes
    - Add to shape area
    - Subtract from shape area
    - Intersect shape areas
  - The Pathfinders
    - Divide
    - Trim
    - Merge
    - Crop
    - Outline
    - Minus Back
  - Width Tool
  - The Blend Tool

Class 07 - Tuesday, October 17, 2023 - Midterm

What you can expect to learn
- Drawing from a Template - Setting up a poster to trace from - Follow directions demonstrated in class.
- Using Guides
- Creating Layers
  - Locking layers and Diming layers
  - Stacking Order of Layers
- Using Eyedropper to sample colors
- Changing Blend Modes
- Creating Blurs - Gaussian Blurs
- Feathering

Adobe Photoshop

Class 08 - Tuesday, October 24, 2023 - Digital Imaging Essentials

What you can expect to learn
- Opening Files
- Working with Multiple Documents
- Panning and Zooming Documents
- Using Handtool to scroll around document
- Viewing Images
- Arranging Panels
- Switching and Saving Workspace
- Customizing the Tool Bar
- Color Modes, Bit Depth and Image Size
- Understanding Color Space
- Ethics of Image Editing
- Using the Crop Tool
- Rule of Thirds
- Clipping Masks

Class 09 - Tuesday, October 31, 2023 - Selections & Brushes

What you can expect to learn
- Making Selections
  Geometric Selections
  > Marquee Tools – Elliptical. Single Row and Single Column

  Freehand Selections
  > Lasso Tools – Polygonal, Magnetic

  Color Based Selections
  > Magic Wand Tool
  > Tolerance

  Quick Selection Tool
- Transformation of Selections
  Rotating, Duplicating, Moving and changing Pixels
  Select Inverse
- Creating an Adjustment Layer
- Brushes
  Brush Panel and Presets
  Loading New Brushes
  Soft Brush vs. Hard Brush
  Changing Brush Size
  Pressure Sensitive Tablet

Class 10 - Tuesday, November 7, 2023 - Layer Basics

What you can expect to learn
- Adobe Bridge
  Opening Multiple Documents
- Layers
  Changing Opacity
  Adding Shape Layers
  Creating Layer Groups
  Merging and Flattening Layers

Class 11 - Tuesday, November 14, 2023 - Loading a Selection

What you can expect to learn
- Channels
- Select Inverse
- Colorizing a drawing in Photoshop

Class 12 - Tuesday, November 21, 2023 - Basic Image Corrections and Retouching
What you can expect to learn
- Straightening and Cropping Images
- Adjusting the color and tone
    Curves
    Levels
- Retouching Tools
    Content Aware
    Patch Tool
    Clone Stamp Tool
    Spot Healing Brush
    Healing Brush

Class 13 - Tuesday, November 28, 2023 - Layers, Masks and Composites
What you can expect to learn
- Understanding Layers and Masks
- Layer stacking order, organization
- Color Modes, Visibility, Renaming Layers, Show/Hide Layers,
- Locking, Deleting, Duplicating Layers
- Straightening and Cropping Images
- Layers
    Creating New Layers
    Resetting color defaults in Tool Bar
            Swap foreground and background colors
    Filling a Selection
            Foregrounds color
            Background Color
- Setting up a Composite File for "Greetings From" Post Card

Class 14 - Tuesday, December 5, 2023 - Compositing
What you can expect to learn
- Designing with Grid Elements
    See samples provided

Class 15 - Tuesday, December 19, 2023 - Presentation of Final Poster to Class