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Final Reflection

 Throughout this semester, I have been taking this “Topics in Graphic Design” class. Never would I have expected to be in a class that is about every aspect of graphic design. At first, it felt like just a course that I needed to complete my Upper Elective requirement. However, it ended up being more than just an elective. Rather, this class ended up being an experience where I actually learned important aspects of what being a graphic designer entails.

Over the course of the entire semester, I have learned to have some more patience towards other forms of graphic design. My main issue was that I have a very specific niche/skill set, which is character illustration. This is what I envisioned myself doing as a career, and literally nothing else. Up until now, I saw other forms of graphic design as roadblocks that stood in my way. To be more specific, I saw these other methods as threats to my future since they all took time away from honing my craft. However, as I had been given time to gain some sort of understanding as to why these other types of design are just as important, I can now give them a chance. I am now able to not get so salty whenever I have to be creative with other methods as they all have a common goal to make visuals that many will enjoy.

Aside from gaining patience for other design methods, I also learned about what actual design teams expect when hiring new talent. Aside from having outstanding portfolios, design teams are especially serious about personality. To many, your work may be great, but if you have an undesirable personality, then nobody would even dare to deal with it. Although I already knew this, it felt way more reinforced than I expected. Originally, I expected the personality aspect to be more of a minor requirement. However, as we went on trips to design agencies, it became more evident that your personality can outweigh one’s phenomenal skill. This is especially prevalent in today’s society as agencies are swarming with younger people (like myself) who have less patience for arrogance. At least I was able to confirm how serious likeability can actually be.

If there is one thing I still would like to learn from this class, it would be to figure out what types of portfolios are preferred. What I mean by saying this is in terms of online portfolios. Do employers want to see only Behance? Would Instagram be something more accessible? Do they even want to see online portfolio websites in the first place? Or is it a PDF only situation? I’m just going to assume that it depends on the places that I apply for, but having some sort of clarity on this part would have helped.

As this class comes to a close, I can say that it was an interesting experience. This type of class is not something that I would normally take, but I somehow managed to complete it without any issues. I even managed to gain new knowledge that can actually impact my future as a creative in modern-day society.