

course number: desn 263-01
credit hours: 3
course meetings: m 11:50–2:20, w 8:00–10:50
course location: 43rd street building / room 105
course blog: fl2image.wordpress.com

instructor: ryan jones, adjunct instructor, rjones@kcai.edu
office hours: by appointment



KCAI school of design *course syllabus*

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the principles of photography and the photographic image as a method for seeing and a tool for communication. It is a project-based class, aimed toward challenging and expanding both technical and cognitive skills in photographic messaging. We will explore connections between photographic form and its content, as an integral part of graphic design. Narrative, documentation and the temporal qualities of the medium will be explored both in creating imagery and in analyzing the role of photographic imagery in culture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

as a result of this course, students will be able to:

- creatively demonstrate an understanding of photographic messaging and story-telling;
- create imagery that creatively satisfy predetermined communication goals;
- demonstrate a high level of manual and technological craft;
- control composition, cropping, color and lighting to affect meaning;
- present and critique work in a thoughtful, productive, and respectful manner;
- apply photographic image-making knowledge and skills to other studio courses;
- composite photographic imagery to create, control and communicate meaning;
- photographically document studio work for presentation and portfolio;
- create a series of conceptually and formally related images;
- display a working competency of the technical skills with which to accomplish all of the above.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- a series of design projects designed to experience each of the above course objectives
- assigned readings, presentations and discussion
- quizzes on terminology, reading, or presentations may be given at my discretion

COURSE POLICIES

USE OF STUDIO SPACE AND TIME

rapid progress is a benefit of the frequent interactions occurring in a community environment. therefore, students are encouraged to work in the studio, utilizing the space provided for them. students are expected to plan and manage their time properly, and are required to be actively working in the class area during studio time, with the following allowances (with instructor's permission): working in the wood shop, library research, computer lab, or any area within the classroom building. leaving to get supplies, food, etc is not acceptable, and should be done before or after class. sleeping or working on another class will result in one verbal warning then an absence will be recorded.

STUDENT CONDUCT

students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a professional and educational setting and demonstrate collegial support of their peers. students are required to observe the student code of conduct, which includes an anti-discrimination statement and no harassment policy. please refer to your student handbook for more information.

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ATTENDANCE POLICY

the general attendance policy is in place because students are responsible for the entire content of the courses, including required portfolios and examinations. an absence from a regularly scheduled class or studio session is defined by a student not attending a scheduled class time and/or missing a significant portion of any class time (as defined by the instructor). if absences meet or exceed 15 percent of the class meetings in any one semester, the student will be subject to a reduced final full letter grade. the use of attendance in grading, up to that point, is at the discretion of the instructor. if absences reach 20 percent of the class meetings in any one semester, the student will fail the course (if absences are excused, the student may be eligible for a withdrawal from the course).

“excused absences” include absences due to illness of the student, illness of an immediate family member for whom the student must care, death of an immediate family member, religious observance (where the nature of the observance prevents the student from being present during class), or representation of KCAI in an official capacity. students seeking an excused absence must provide documentation to the ARC to substantiate the excuse. the ARC will notify instructors that the documentation is on file. students with excused absences are responsible for completing all course requirements as outlined by the instructor.

ATTENDANCE DETAILS FOR THIS COURSE

please take note of the following:

any absence (excused by the ARC or unexcused) negatively affects your grade.

“late” = out of the classroom during roll call at the beginning of class or leaving class early.

“absent” = late or leaving early by 30 minutes or more, asleep, disengaged, lack of participation, or working on non-class projects.

three lates = one absence.

3 unexcused absences = one letter grade reduction.

5 unexcused absences = two letter grade reduction.

6 unexcused absences = course failure.

absences will be considered unexcused until proper paperwork is received from the ARC.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

if a student has been marked absent (could include tardies counted as an absence) for 15% or more of the class, the instructor, if it is before mid-term, will give them a down grade if the mid-term earned grade lowered by one full letter grade is a C– or less. at any point in time during the semester, if a student is marked absent for 15% or more of the class, the instructor will inform their department chair and the associate vice president for student achievement. the associate vice president for student achievement will send notification to the student warning them they have missed 15% of the class(es), telling them this will have a negative impact on their grade, and requiring them to meet with the department chair who will reinforce where they stand and explain to them what will happen if they are marked absent for 20% of the class.

if a student has been marked absent (could include tardies counted as an absence) for 20% or more of the class, the instructor will inform their department chair, the associate vice president for student achievement and the registrar’s office. the associate vice president for student achievement will send notification to the student informing them they will receive a failing grade (f) for the class. the notification will let them know that, if the absences are excused absences as outlined in the policy, they may request the failing grade be changed to a withdrawal (w). the academic standards committee will review these requests to verify if the absences were excused and warrant a withdrawal from the class.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS

KCAI will provide services and accommodations as mandated by the americans with disabilities act and section 504 of the rehabilitation act.

students requesting accommodations based on disability status should provide KCAI appropriate documentation. the documentation must be in written form from a licensed health care professional or educational professional who is qualified to diagnose the disability and recommend spe-

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cific accommodations. documentation must be within 3 years of being current. KCAI has the right to require a student to supplement the documentation if it is determined that the information in the initial documentation is incomplete, inadequate, or the qualifications of the health care provider or professional are in question. the documentation should state the specific disability and include recommended accommodations with a rationale if needed. all documentation will be kept confidential.

students with documented disabilities are encouraged to provide documentation whether or not they opt to have accommodations in place so that if a specific need arises, an accommodation can be put in place in a timely manner. accommodations are not made on a post facto basis. accommodations are not put in place unless requested by the student. all requests are confidential.

send documentation to: katherine keller, disabilities coordinator, kkeller@kcai.edu, 816.802.3485

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

academic dishonesty is defined as follows:

- a) the copying of another student's, work or the use of unauthorized notes and materials during examinations,
- b) plagiarism, or the presentation of either the written or visual work of others (including that of other students), as one's own

plagiarism is a serious offense in the academy, as well as illegal in the context of our nation's copyright law. as such, it is important to know what plagiarism is in both one's studio and liberal arts work. according to the modern language association, plagiarism is "the wrongful act of taking the product of another person's mind, and presenting it as one's own." in other words, plagiarism is the use of not just words but ideas borrowed from someone else without crediting the source. students are required to learn the arts-standard, chicago manual of style guidelines for citing sources referenced in their own work, and must follow them carefully in their research and writing projects. for proper citation method, following the chicago manual of style, refer to maria buszek's website at http://www.mariabuszek.com/kcai/citation_style.htm

students are also expected to be honest in their studio practices, particularly since the practice of appropriation is such an important strategy in art history. though they might appear to be similar, plagiarism and appropriation are actually two very different practices. while it is true that appropriation involves taking possession of something often without permission – which for the visual artist usually means taking an image – it is also true that an appropriated image isn't passed off as the original production of the appropriating artist. indeed, the appropriation artist wants the viewer to recognize that an image has been utilized and referenced. (an artist who appropriates an image inevitably wishes to comment upon the original source in some way, usually as a critique, parody, or homage – all of which happen to fall under the realm of "fair use" in copyright law.) as such, appropriation is actually more like citing a source than plagiarizing it. all academic dishonesty is taken as an offense against the institute and may result in penalties assessed by the faculty member teaching the course in which the offense has occurred and the judicial board, up to and including expulsion.

when a faculty member has reason to believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred, s/he will inform the student/s involved, the head of the department (or director/dean, if applicable) in which the course is offered, and the head of the department (or director/dean, if applicable) in which the student is majoring. the faculty member will forward a report in writing to the dean of student life for presentation before the KCAI judicial board. the judicial board will interview and/or receive written statements from the student accused of academic dishonesty prior to making any determination.

once a determination has been made that an offense did occur, faculty members maintain the right to assign a failing grade to the student. additional penalties, up to and including expulsion, will be determined by the judicial board working in tandem with the faculty member who reported the offense.

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COURSE PLAGIARISM POLICY

any project/paper discovered to have its origins anywhere other than the student's mind will result in an *f* for the project/paper. research or opinion papers utilizing any ideas directly from a source must cite the source properly, utilizing the chicago manual of style.

CHEATING/UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE

it is inappropriate for students to provide or receive unauthorized assistance during an examination or for other assignments. for example, the use of cheat sheets, copying from another individual's paper/examination is in violation of the KCAI student code of conduct.

LATE/INCOMPLETE/MISSED PROJECTS

projects submitted for any final critique that are obviously not completed will be graded as-is. any project not submitted at the beginning of its final critique will result in a failing grade for the project, unless the absence or tardy can be excused with proper documentation. students that miss classes will be expected to make up all studio work in addition to homework assignments and will not be granted extensions to project deadlines.

PROJECT REVISIONS

any project is subject to improvements based on instructor and student feedback. after a final project critique, revisions may be necessary and are encouraged for your portfolio development. students are encouraged to make necessary revisions in a timely manner (approx 2 weeks) after the initial critique date but are not required to re-submittal until the last day of class. project revisions and improvements will be reflected in your end-of-term grade .

USE OF COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

regarding the myriad ways we may digitally communicate with one another – please practice the utmost respect for classmates, instructors, and your own intellectual development during designated course times. cell phone rings, texting, and other unproductive digital activity will result in dismissal from class.

END OF SEMESTER REVIEW

at the completion of sophomore year you will have the opportunity to verbally and visually demonstrate your design abilities. you will show select process and projects from both fall and spring semesters. faculty and other invited guests will provide feedback regarding your strengths and weaknesses and what to work on during summer break.

COURSE AND PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

students are required to maintain a web-based archive of interim process and final project documentation (set up your own wordpress, blogger, or similar account – many are free). post any process and all final documentation for each project throughout the semester. Further, some project critiques will occur online. this archive will figure into the “process” and “presentation” portions of your grade.

physical process books documenting hand-generated work are also encouraged, but not required. if undertaken, these may be turned in at final critiques for consideration on your project grades.

GRADING POLICIES

each major project will be graded against four criteria, for a score totalling 100.

Objectives: Ability to meet objectives outlined in the project. Exhibits learning through risk taking and considered decision making. Ability to creatively solve problems within parameters.

Presentation: Attention to detail and sense of craft. Level of quality achieved in final presentation design, and clarity of project presentation in final critiques and reviews.

Participation: Ability to articulate ideas in group settings, with the instructor and in writing. Contribution to a positive and critical atmosphere. Maintains a professional and respectful demeanor.

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Process: Consistent level of effort. Demonstrates lateral thinking and ability to use the process from research and concept to refinement and completion. Process is divided by daily progress (evidence of progress made between classes) and project documentation.

projects are weighted based on duration through the semester. for example, a project taking half a semester is worth 50% of the final course grade and a project taking a fourth of the semester (about 3 to 4 weeks) is worth 25% of the final course grade. the grading scale is as follows:

a	95–100	superior
a-	90–94	
b+	86–89	
b	83–85	above average
b-	80–82	
c+	76–79	
c	73–75	average
c-	70–72	
d+	66–69	
d	60–65	below average
f	0–59	failure

determination of how a student's work ranks is in relation to developmental norms for design students at your course level pursuing a BFA degree, as well as expectation for entrance into professional practice. if your work stands out as highly effective, innovative, and memorable in how it satisfies all grading criteria, you will earn a project score of superior. if your work satisfies the grading criteria in a basic way but is not memorable or demonstrate significant learning, you will earn a score of average or below.

MATERIALS

consider sharing or using reasonable substitutes.

bring to every class:

- laptop (charged, and ready to work)
- flash drive, external harddrive or access to reliable data storage and backup/retrieval system
- sketching and note-taking materials (whatever system that works best for you, as long as you're able to keep it organized so you don't lose your valuable ideas).

materials regularly used:

- digital camera (see specs on blog)
 - xacto knife
 - metal straight edge for cutting
 - cutting surface: self healing mat 20 × 30 or larger
 - adhesive: rubber cement, glue stick, spray mount, or studio tac
 - any other mock-up, creation, or construction supplies you may need as per individual project
- ** we will not be using Foam-Core, as it is environmentally unfriendly

TEXTS

required:

none required. PDF, online, and other recommended readings may be provided via the blog.

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