

2015 SPRING SEMESTER

59 Carroll Hall

Mondays and Wednesdays

11:15 to 1:05 p.m.

Terence Oliver Associate professor

76 Carroll Hall

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Office Hours

Mondays and Wednesdays

1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and

by appointment

JOMC484

Information Graphics



Infographics are the result of using the rules of Information Design (one of the branches of Graphic Design) for telling news stories. They are the best way to convey statistical information, locating a place or explaining complex processes and procedures.

JOMC484 will provide you with the skills to create clear, accurate, informative and visually attractive Information Graphics using the most common tools in newsrooms worldwide.

Description and policies

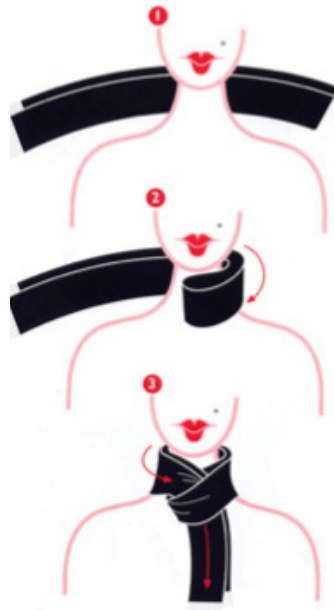
Course description

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In Information Graphics you will learn to use the principles of visual representation of data, design and illustration intended to convey information, and basic cartography for news.

When confronted with an excel spread sheet populated with many rows and columns of numbers, we can make little sense of any patterns in the numbers. But when those same numbers are converted into a graph, the patterns are readily apparent. Simple diagrams, such as the one below, facilitate understanding and memory. And if a friend is coming to your house for the first time, you might draw a map for them, or send them to Google maps.

Implicit in each of these examples is the recognition that we learn and gain understanding more readily through pictures or visual representations than text alone. In this course, we will discuss the cognitive basis of visual perception, how it relates to visual design principles and how to apply those principles to the design and production of informational graphics in a journalistic context. You are expected to conduct yourselves within the guidelines of the UNC-CH Honor Code. All work must be completed with the high level of honesty and integrity that this University demands.



Nigel Holmes, "Wordless Diagrams"

Assignments and grading

Grading

Grading will be based on quizzes and four projects. The grading scale is below. No final exam will be given.

Components

	Percent of total
Three exercises	15%
Project 1:	20%
Project 2:	20%
Project 3:	20%
Project 4:	25%
	100%

Scale

Points	Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 and below	F

Items to purchase

Backup tools

DVDs, USB flash drive, portable hard drive. Remember that you are responsible for backing up your work. No deadline will be extended due to loss of files.

Sketchbook

You will need a sketch book or paper for roughly sketching your ideas.

Assignments and grading

Grading criteria

These are the main general grading criteria I will be using for the projects:

1. Every project must be completed on time
2. Overall spatial organization, structure of the elements on the page
3. Informative use of color or grays
4. Thoughtful choice of type
5. Aesthetic design choices in general
6. Creativity
7. Strength of illustration
8. Attendance

Intrinsic goals include mastery, self-expression, conquering challenges, personal growth, and meaningful discovery.

Detailed guidelines and specific grading criteria for the projects will be provided in class.

Things will be noted and could have a negative impact on your grade:

- 1) Coming to class late.
- 2) Lack of focus with distractions such as texting or Facebook, etc.

Attendance Policy

Each student will be allowed two unexcused absence. Additional unexcused absences will result in a 5% reduction in your final grade.

The values and competencies are:

- *Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances;*
 - *Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;*
 - *Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications;*
 - *Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;*
 - *Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;*
 - *Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;*
 - *Think critically, creatively and independently;*
- Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;*
- *Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;*
 - *Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;*
 - *Apply basic numerical and statistical concepts;*
 - *Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.*

Course calendar

NOTE: This schedule is a guide and may change depending on the classes' progress and needs

		<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>January</i>	Wednesday 7	Introduction to the course, orientation to the lab, and setting goals.	
	Monday 12	Guest Speaker + Reviewing of basics, history and discussion	Internet research due
	Wednesday 14	Maps and charts	Exercise one due
	Monday 19	NO CLASS: Holiday	
	Wednesday 21	Maps, charts, deadline and breaking news discussion	
	Monday 26	Building big infographics and enterprise	Exercise two due
	Wednesday 28	Project 1 info	
<i>February</i>	Monday 2	Project 1	
	Wednesday 4	Project 1 (rough sketch due)	
	Monday 9	Project 1	
	Wednesday 11	Project 1 prelim	
	Monday 16	Project 2 assigned	Project one due
	Wednesday 18	Project 2	
	Monday 23	Project 2	
	Wednesday 25	Project 2	

Course calendar

		<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>March</i>	Monday 2	Prelim	
	Wednesday 4	Project 2 due	
	Break		
	Break		
	Monday 16	Project 3 assigned	
	Wednesday 18	Project 3	
	Monday 23	Project 3	
	Wednesday 25	Project 3	
	Monday 30	Project 3	
<i>April</i>	Wednesday 1	Project 4 assigned	Project 3 due
	Monday 6	Project 4	
	Wednesday 8	Project 4	in-class deadline exercise
	Monday 13	Project 4	
	Wednesday 15	Project 4	
	Monday 20	Project 4	
	Wednesday 22	Project 4 due	