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Office Hours
Mondays and Wednesdays
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 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.

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 on the right, 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.
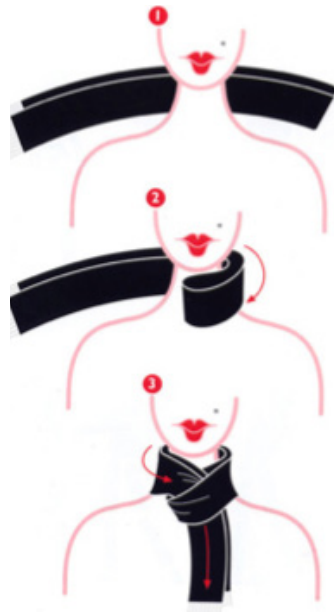
Nigel Holmes, "Wordless Diagrams"

Information Graphics

Grading

Grading will be based on quizes 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.

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. Use of color should demonstrate an understanding of the role of color in information design.
8. Attendance

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

Three things that you want to avoid that could have a negative impact on your grade:
1) Coming to class late.
2) Texting on and updating on your phone.
3) Checking email, writing emails and going on Facebook in class.

Attendance Policy

Each student will be allowed two unexcused absence. Additional unexcused absences will result in a 5% reduction in your final grade. Excused absences (doctor's note) do not affect your grade.

In addition, every five late arrivals will result in a 5% reduction in your final grade.

I expect that you will conduct yourselves within the guidelines of the Honor System. All work must be completed with the high level of honesty and integrity that this university demands.

Note: The schedule in this syllabus is a **guideline**, and the production schedule is likely to be updated as the semester progresses.

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Course calendar

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

		Schedule	Notes
January	Wednesday 8	Introduction to the course, orientation to the lab, and setting goals.	
	Monday 13	Guest Speaker + Reviewing of basics, history and discussion	Internet research due
	Wednesday 15	Maps and charts	Exercise one due
	Monday 20	**NO CLASS: Holiday**	
	Wednesday 22	Maps, charts, deadline and breaking news discussion	
	Monday 27	Building big infographics and enterprise	Exercise two due
	Wednesday 29	Project 1 info	
February	Monday 3	Project 1	
	Wednesday 5	Project 1 (rough sketch due)	
	Monday 10	Project 1	
	Wednesday 12	Project 1 prelim	
	Monday 17	Project 2 assigned	Project one due
	Wednesday 19	Project 2	
	Monday 24	Project 2	
	Wednesday 26	Project 2	

Information Graphics

Course calendar

		Schedule	Notes
March	Monday 3	Prelim	
	Wednesday 5	Project 2 due	
	Break		
	Break		
	Monday 17	Project 3 assigned	
	Wednesday 19	Project 3	
	Monday 24	Project 3	
	Wednesday 26	Project 3	
	Monday 31	Project 3	
April	Wednesday 2	Project 4 assigned	Project 3 due
	Monday 7	Project 4	
	Wednesday 9	Project 4	in-class deadline exercise
	Monday 14	Project 4	
	Wednesday 16	Project 4	
	Monday 21	Project 4	
	Wednesday 23	Project 4 due	