Terence Oliver Associate Professor
76 Carroll Hall
(919) 843-5841
olivert@email.unc.edu

Office Hours
Monday and Wednesday
1:45 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. and
by appointment

MEJO 484

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 and agencies worldwide.

Information Graphics

Course description

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.

Implicit in each of this example 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.
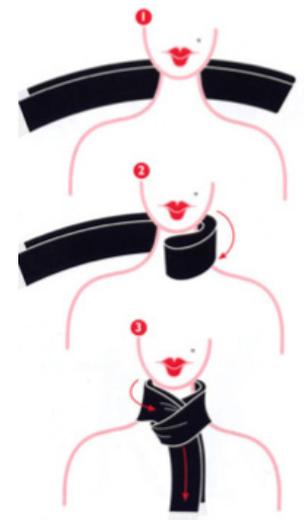
Nigel Holmes, "Wordless Diagrams"

Honor Code:
I expect that each student will conduct himself or herself within the guidelines of the University honor system (http://honor.unc.edu). All academic work should be done with the high levels of honesty and integrity that this University demands. You are expected to produce your own work in this class. If you have any questions about your responsibility or your instructor's responsibility as a faculty member under the Honor Code, please see the course instructor or Senior Associate Dean Charlie Tuggle, or you may speak with a representative of the Student Attorney Office or the Office of the Dean of Students.

Seeking Help:
If you need individual assistance, it's your responsibility to meet with the instructor. If you are serious about wanting to improve your performance in the course, the time to seek help is as soon as you are aware of the problem – whether the problem is difficulty with course material, a disability, or an illness.

Diversity:
The School of Media and Journalism adopted Diversity and Inclusion Mission and Vision statements in spring 2016 with accompanying goals - http://www.mj.unc.edu/diversity-and-inclusion. The University's statement:
UNC is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community and does not discriminate in offering access to its educational programs and activities based on age, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Special Accommodations:
If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in this course, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. If you need information about disabilities visit the Accessibility Services website at https://accessibility.unc.edu/

ACCREDITATION
The School of Media and Journalism's accrediting body outlines a number of values you should be aware of and competencies you should be able to demonstrate by the time you graduate from our program. Learn more about them here:
http://www2.ku.edu/~acejmc/PROGRAM/PRINCIPLES.SHTML#vals&comps

No single course could possibly give you all of these values and competencies; but collectively, our classes are designed to build your abilities in each of these areas. In this class, we will address a number of the values and competencies, with special emphasis on the last seven bullet dots under "Professional values and competencies" in the link above.

Information Graphics

Grading

Grading will be based on three exercises and four projects. The grading scale is below.

Components

	Percent of total
Two exercises (reduced one)	15%
Project 1:	20%
Project 2:	20%
Project 3:	20%
Project 4:	25%
	100%

Scale

| Points	Grade
94-100	A
90-93	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
65 and below	F

Items to purchase
A few assignments will require a color print.
USB flash drive or portable hard drive. Remember that you are responsible for backing up your work. No deadline will be extended due to loss of files.
You will need a sketch book or paper for roughly sketching your ideas.
Textbook
a practical guide to
GRAPHICS REPORTING
by Jennifer George-Palilonis
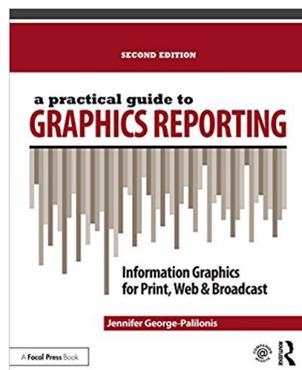
Attendance Policy

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

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

Information Graphics

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. Research and parsing of the research for clear communication

~~Note: Because of the nature of deadline production by a team, there will be at least one evening session that everyone will be required to attend.~~

Information Graphics

Course calendar

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

		Discussion	Notes
January			
	Wednesday 10	Introduction to the course, orientation to the lab, and setting goals.	
	Monday 15	Holiday	
	Wednesday 17		
	Monday 22	Reviewing of basics, history and discussion. Pen tool review.	Internet research due
	Wednesday 24	Maps, color and charts	Exercise one due
	Monday 29	Maps, charts and color	
February	Wednesday 31	Building big infographics and enterprise Project 1 info	Exercise two due
	Monday 5	Project 1	Reading: Chapter 1 & 4
	Wednesday 7	Project 1	
	Monday 12	Project 1 prelim	
	Wednesday 14	Project 1	
	Monday 19	Project 1	
	Wednesday 21	Introduce project 2	Project one due
	Monday 26	Project 2	
	Wednesday 28	Project 2	

Information Graphics

		Discussion	Notes
March	Monday 5	Project 2 Prelim	
	Wednesday 7	Project 2	
Spring Break	Monday 12		
Spring Break	Wednesday 14		
	Monday 19	Project 2 due Introduce project 3	
	Wednesday 21	Project 3 Library resources	
	Monday 26	Project 3	
	Wednesday 27	Project 3	
April	Monday 2	Project 3 Prelim	
	Wednesday 4	Project 3	
	Monday 9	Project 3 due Introduce Project 4	
	Wednesday 11	Project 4	
	Monday 16	Project 4	
	Wednesday 18	Project 4 Prelim	
	Monday 23	Project 4	~~in-class deadline exercise~~
	Wednesday 25	Project 4 due	

Final exam time: Monday April 30 at 11:15am
—Wrap up and portfolio review