

Foundations of Interactive Multimedia

MEJO 187.001 - Fall 2018

Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Carroll Lab: 60

Final Exam: Friday, Dec 7th at 8am

Instructor

Brandon Frye, Adjunct Professor

Mobile: 910.639.5527

brandonfrye.io/

Office Hours

By appointment, immediately before class.

Course Description

Entry-level course in multimedia storytelling introducing students to foundational concepts of interactive media utilizing modern techniques. Through lectures and hands-on experiences in classes, students discover the creation, strategies and application of interactivity through content development and storytelling, UX design, responsive web design, prototyping, usability testing, and human computer interaction.

Prerequisites: While this is not a prerequisite for this course, Visual Communication majors are strongly recommended to take MEJO 182: Foundations of Graphic Design prior or concurrent with this course.

Course Format

This course will consist of four interactive media projects and a student presentation/critique on an interactive document or product; quizzes, tutorials, critiques and class discussions on practice and readings.

Course Progression

Part I: Information Architecture and User Experience

Part II: HTML & CSS

Part III: Content Management Systems and PHP

Course Goals

To meet the following student learning outcomes, core values and competencies:

- Design systematic interactive information architecture and usability
- Design for user experiences that responds to a diversity of peoples and cultures
- Logically and intuitively organize information for different interactive projects
- Understand concepts and apply legal practices in the use of images and information
- Compare and contrast interactive design and communication strategies
- Write and develop with basic programming languages including HTML, CSS, PHP
- Write HTML and CSS using a modern text editor
- Adapt the work flow and creative process for a front-end designer or developer
- Demonstrate interactive best practices in file management, code and design decisions
- Plan and produce diverse interactive projects for web and mobile
- Build responsive interactive projects using a preferred framework, libraries, and/or tech stacks
- Present, evaluate and critique interactive projects

Website Domain and Hosting

You are required to have a personal domain and obtain a host provider. Suggested hosts are Reclaim Hosting, GoDaddy.com, HostGator.com, Bluehost.com. We will cover any and all questions and issues during the publishing learning module.

Software and Training

Some software programs are required for this course, including **Adobe Illustrator** and **Photoshop**. All of the programs you need will be available on the lab computers and also through UNC's Adobe Creative Cloud.

<http://software.sites.unc.edu/software/adobe-creative-cloud/>

Lynda.com is offered free to UNC students. We will use Lynda.com and other free tutorial sites throughout the semester. To learn more about Lynda.com, visit the ITS website at <http://software.sites.unc.edu/lynda/>

Lab Information:

- Connecting to the lab Class Server Storage remotely: <http://jhelp.web.unc.edu/>

- Once connected locally or remotely, select your semester and class section by one of the following: Mac Users: Go > Connect to Server > **smb://files.jomc.unc.edu** from the Finder.
- Windows Users: Type **\\files.jomc.unc.edu** in Windows Explorer.
- Drinks and food are not allowed on desks next to computers. Water in a sealed container is ok.
- Computers refresh every night, save all your work to the server and/or take with you.
- Lab equipment/software support: help@help.mj.unc.edu
- Lab hours are 6AM-Midnight every day, and free when not in use. To access the labs you will need a
- OneCard.

Assignments

Projects

There will be four main projects during this course. The first one will challenge you to design a website using Adobe Illustrator and employing fundamental design techniques that we will discuss in class. The second project will expand on the first by asking you to both design and develop a website using HTML and CSS. The third will challenge you to create your own personal portfolio website using WordPress. The final project will be an online magazine/publication with a completely custom design and WordPress theme. Additional information about all of these projects will be provided during class. *Projects are subject to change.*

Exercises and Quizzes

In-class exercises will cover the reading assignments and material pertaining to the particular week's lessons. There may also be a couple unannounced quizzes on reading assignments and class discussion. If you keep up with the reading assignments and pay attention in class, the quizzes should be easy to complete.

Website Critique

You will be asked to critique and lead a discussion about a professional multimedia project of your choosing for the class. More specifics about the requirements of this presentation and the accompanying paper will be provided during class.

Assessment

Your success in this course will be determined by participation as well as completion and effort on all assignments. There will be smaller exercises, quizzes and four main projects throughout the semester. In general, late projects are unacceptable. You will lose **one letter grade per day late** on all projects. In unusual circumstances

(serious illness, etc.), late projects will be accepted only if you reach out to the instructor before the assignment is due with a legitimate reason for its tardiness.

It is also important that you discuss your work and the work of others during project critiques. Failure to do so will lower your participation grade.

Grading

There are basic expectations that any supervisor or project manager will have for a project undertaken by an interactive designer or developer. All of your assignments must meet the following minimum basic standards to be considered for a grade of “B” or better:

- Presented and shared during class critiques and informal discussions
- Completed according to the assignment specifications.
- Completed on time.
- Free of typographical, grammatical and mechanical errors.
- Completed so as to evidence a clear grasp of interactive design and production standards.
- For a grade of “A” or better, your work will be evaluated for information and news value, presentation, editing decisions, information architecture, aesthetic design choices, and creativity and innovation.

Grade Weighting

Participation: 10%

Assignments & Quizzes: 15%

Website Critique: 10%

Projects: 65%

Grading Scale

94% and higher: A

90-93: A-

87-89: B+

84-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

74-76: C

70-73: C-

69-60: D

59% or below: F

Attendance

This course is demanding, and skills will be taught in each session that you will need to proceed with your assignments. Missing class will leave you behind. Therefore, attendance is required, participation is expected, and deadlines are absolute. If you must miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor ahead of time. Each student will be allowed one unexcused absence. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a 2% reduction (via participation points) in your final grade. Excused absences (doctor's note or academic meetings cleared with me in advance) will not affect your grade. Critique absence will be an additional 1% reduction. 3 tardies will equal 1 absence.

Class Expectations

Most class sessions will consist of lecture/demonstration and lab time used to work on the current project or exercise. Students should plan on spending a generous amount of additional lab time outside of class to complete readings, tutorials and assignments. You are expected to come to every class on time, interact with your classmates and the instructor, and work hard inside and outside of lab.

Once class has started, you are expected NOT to check your cell phone or browse non-course related websites during class. This is distracting to students around you and to the instructor. Failure to do so will lower a student's participation grade.

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, disability, or an illness.

Diversity

The University's policy on Prohibiting Harassment and Discrimination is outlined in the 2011-2012 Undergraduate Bulletin <http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/>. 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 on the basis of age, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. <http://eoc.unc.edu/our-policies/ppdhrm/>
<http://www.mj.unc.edu/diversity-and-inclusion>

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 Department of Disability Services website at <http://disabilityservices.unc.edu/>

Accreditation

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication'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 six bullet dots under "Professional values and competencies" in the link above.

Schedule for Fall 2018 (subject to change)

Week 1 - Introduction and UX Basics

Week 2 - Web Design

Week 3 - Layout and Grid Basics

Week 4 - HTML

Week 5 - HTML and CSS

Week 6 - CSS GRID and Flexbox

Week 7 - PROJECT 2

Week 8 - FTP and Web Hosting

Week 9 - Wordpress

Week 10 - Wordpress

Week 11 - Wordpress

Week 12 - JavaScript/ES6

Week 13 - JavaScript/ES6

Week 14 - JavaScript/ES6

Week 15 - Publish