

2020 SPRING SEMESTER
59 Carroll Hall
Monday and Wednesday 10am

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Office Hours
Monday and Wednesday
12:30p.m. to 1:50 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 and entertainment stories. They are the best way to convey statistical information, locating a place or explaining complex processes and procedures.

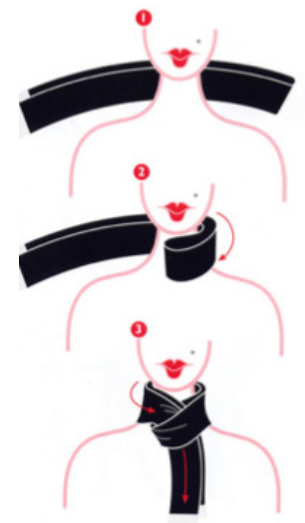
MEJO 484 will provide you with the skills to create clear, accurate, informative and visually attractive Information Graphics using the most common tools in newsrooms and agencies worldwide.

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 these examples is the recognition that we learn and gain understanding more readily through pictures or visual representations than text alone.



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

Assignments and grading

Grading

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

Components

	Percent of total
Two exercises	10%
Project 1:	20%
Project 2:	20%
Project 3:	20%
Project 4:	25%
Participation	5%
Total	

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

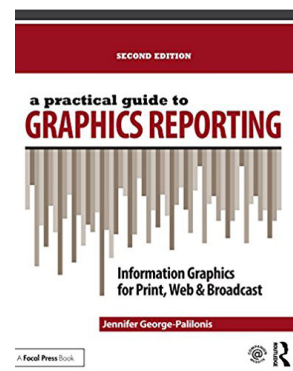
A few assignments will require a color print. It is up to you to figure out the best place to make this happen before the deadline.

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 up to two absences. Additional absences will result in a 5% reduction in your final grade. You will be responsible for signing in at the start of each class. If you are not going to be in class you are responsible for sending an email to the professor.

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

Grading criteria

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

1. Creativity/Visual Impact
2. Technical/Execution Quality
3. Research and parsing of the research for clear communication
4. Proofing
5. On-time delivery

Information Graphics

Course calendar

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

		Discussion	Notes
January	Wednesday 8	Introduction to the course, orientation to the lab, and setting goals.	
	Monday 13	Reviewing of basics, history and discussion. Pen tool review.	Internet research due
	Wednesday 15	Maps, charts and color	Exercise one due
	Monday 20	Holiday	
	Wednesday 22	Maps, charts and color	
	Monday 27	Building big infographics and enterprise Project 1 info	Exercise two due
February	Wednesday 29	Project 1 Talk about direction of individual projects and discuss notes	Reading: Chapter 1 & 4
	Monday 3	Project 1 Review rough drafts with main illustration and structure	
	Wednesday 5	Project 1	
	Monday 10	Project 1 Prelim review	
	Wednesday 12	Project 1	
	Monday 17	Introduce project 2	Project one due
	Wednesday 19	Project 2	
	Monday 24	Project 2	
	Wednesday 26	Project 2 Prelim	

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Course calendar

		Discussion	Notes
March	Monday 2		
	Wednesday 4	Project 2	Project 2 due
Spring Break	Monday 9		
Spring Break	Wednesday 11		
	Monday 16	Introduce project 3	
	Wednesday 18	Project 3	
	Monday 23	Project 3 Library resources	
	Wednesday 25	Project 3	
	Monday 30	Project 3 Prelim	
April	Wednesday 1	Project 3	
	Monday 6	Project 3 due Introduce Project 4	
	Wednesday 8	Project 4	
	Monday 13	Project 4	
	Wednesday 15	Project 4 Prelim	
	Monday 20	Project 4	
	Wednesday 22	Project 4 due	

Final exam time: Monday April 27 at 5:30 pm
—Wrap up and celebration