



J487 Intermediate Interactive Media

Professor: Steven King, Assistant Professor of Interactive Media
UNC School of Media and Journalism
Reese Innovation Lab, 142 E. Franklin St.

Class: Mondays and Wednesday from 12:00 - 1:45 pm
Office Hours: Mondays from 2:00 - 3:00 pm or by appointment.
Office: Reese Innovation Lab at 142 E. Franklin St.
Course Website: Sakai
Twitter: @steven_king
GitHub: steven-king
Phone: 919-360-8907

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Learn web programming, digital design and interactive data visualizations for storytelling and information sharing. Students will use HTML5 CSS3, JavaScript and other web publishing languages and libraries like React.js and D3.js while learning how to design, storyboard and script an interactive storytelling project. Students will collect and incorporate photos, text, video, graphics and database information into interactive media applications.

This course will expand on the knowledge and skills learned in J187 and multimedia design by increasing your ability to develop and present media. You will learn more advanced CSS and HTML in 187 in addition to the basics of JavaScript, JS frameworks and libraries.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learn how to Solve Problems using logic and technology
Learn how to design and build interactive experiences for specific audiences
Learn how to work with and visualize complex data sets for a specific audience

TECHNICAL CONCEPTS

- Advanced CSS
- Command Line
- Server Technologies
- Git and Git Hub
- Vanilla JavaScript
- Charting Library
- D3.JS
- React.JS (If time allows)
- REST APIs

PREREQUISITES AND PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

JOMC 187 Introduction to Interactive Media or proven experience of HTML, CSS and responsive design

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 "Professional values and competencies" listed below.

- 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;
- Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Assignments

Attendance is required, participation is expected and deadlines are absolute even during COVID.

University Policy:

No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings, except for these University Approved Absences:

1. Authorized University activities
2. Disability/religious observance/pregnancy, as required by law and approved by [Accessibility Resources and Service](#) and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#) (EOC)
3. Significant health condition and/or personal/family emergency as approved by the [Office of the Dean of Students](#), [Gender Violence Service Coordinators](#), and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#) (EOC).

Class Policy:

Instructors may work with students to meet attendance needs that do not fall within University approved absences. For situations when an absence is not University approved (e.g., a job interview or club activity), instructors determine their own approach to missed classes and make-up assessments and assignments. Please provide your approach on the course syllabus.

Please communicate with me early about potential absences. Please be aware that you are bound by the [Honor Code](#) when making a request for a University approved absence.

(source: <http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination/>)

To succeed in this class you must attend and participate in the discussion and hands-on, in-class assignments. Each in-class assignment or quiz is worth 20 points and can only be completed during class and will not be turned at a later date. You are allowed one un-excused absence. Any other missed class assignments will receive a 0 grade.

During COVID, you have the option of attending remotely via Zoom for the in-person sessions. You are required to wear a mask during class when in-person.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED unless special arrangements are made prior to the due date. Major projects will be due at 11:59 p.m. Deadlines are vital to success in this industry and you are expected to make deadline.

Honor Code and Plagiarism

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 C. A. Tuggle, or you may speak with a representative of the Student Attorney Office or the Office of the Dean of Students.

It is acceptable to use coding resources such as tutorials, libraries and **some** source code on sites like GitHub but the software license must allow for the usage and the **code should be credited**, linked and commented in your source code and credited visibly on the site either in the footer or a credits page.

Syllabus Changes

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible.

Policy on Non-Discrimination

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community and to ensuring that educational and employment decisions are based on individuals' abilities and qualifications. Consistent with this principle and applicable laws, the University's Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination offers access to its educational programs and activities as well as employment terms and conditions without respect to race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, genetic information, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Such a policy ensures that only relevant factors are considered and that equitable and consistent standards of conduct and performance are applied.

If you are experiencing harassment or discrimination, you can seek assistance and file a report through the Report and Response Coordinators (see contact info at safe.unc.edu) or the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office, or online to the EOC at <https://eoc.unc.edu/report-an-incident/>.

Diversity

I strive to make this classroom an inclusive space for all students. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to improve; I appreciate any suggestions. More broadly, our school has adopted diversity and inclusion mission and vision statements with accompanying goals. These complement the University policy on prohibiting harassment and discrimination. In summary, 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. The Dean of Students (Suite 1106, Student Academic Services Building, CB# 5100, 450 Ridge Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5100 or [919] 966-4042) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies.

Seeking Help

If you need individual assistance, it's your responsibility to contact me. 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.

Special Accommodations

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in barriers to fully accessing University courses, programs and activities. Accommodations are determined through the Office of Accessibility Resources and Service (ARS) for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. See the ARS Website for contact information: <https://ars.unc.edu> or email ars@unc.edu. If you need information about disabilities visit the Accessibility Services website at <https://accessibility.unc.edu/>

Counseling and Psychological Services

CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: <https://caps.unc.edu/> or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.

Mask Use

All enrolled students are required to wear a mask covering your mouth and nose at all times in our classroom. This requirement is to protect our educational community -- your classmates and me – as we learn together. If you choose not to wear a mask, or wear it improperly, I will ask you to leave immediately, and I will submit a report to the Office of Student Conduct. At that point you will be disenrolled from this course for the protection of our educational community. Students who have an authorized accommodation from Accessibility Resources and Service have an exception. For additional information, see <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/university-guidelines-for-facemasks/>.

Grading Policy

There are basic expectations that any supervisor or project manager would have for a project undertaken by a multimedia design specialist. All of your assignments must meet the following minimum basic standards to be considered for a grade of “B” or better.

The project must be:

- 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 development standards and design concepts.

When appropriate your work also will be evaluated for:

-
- consumer value
 - architecture of information presentation
 - aesthetic design choices
 - creativity and innovation

RESOURCES AND SOFTWARE

Text Book

Learning JavaScript: JavaScript Essentials for Modern Application Development

Ethan Brown, 3rd Edition ~\$25

<http://bit.ly/JSessent>

Software

We will use Atom code editor but any IDE or HTML/CSS/JavaScript Code editor will be fine. Many students use Sublime Text.

ASSIGNMENTS

This class follows a project-driven approach and is built on four major projects that demonstrate the skills taught in the class.

In-class Assignments and Quizzes

In-class exercises will cover the reading assignments and issues pertaining to the particular week's lessons. You always will be able to use your notes and textbook to complete the exercises, so be sure to bring them to class everyday. Some of these assignments may count as a quiz grade.

You also will have unannounced more traditional quizzes on reading assignments throughout the semester. If you keep up with the reading assignments, the quizzes will be easy to complete.

Professional Test

There will be one exam during the second half of the semester, possibly on exam day. Date will be determined and you will be informed in plenty of time to study. This test will be similar to what you might see on a job interview. This exam helps you prepare for such a day and show you have the deeper knowledge of what you build.

Projects

On four occasions during the semester you will be assigned projects that will require you to create an original Web site or interactive. More information about these projects will be provided during class.

The final project should demonstrate a comprehensive menu of Web design and multimedia production skills commensurate with what you learned during this course. The same grading criteria used for other assignments submitted during the semester will be used when evaluating your final project but this project is worth 4x the points because it requires extra efforts and proves you have mastered all the skills and concepts for the entire semester. Think of it as your final exam. Additional information about required elements will be provided during class.

Assignments	Points Each	% of Grade
Exercises and Quizzes	20	20%
Three Projects	100	30%
Midterm	150	15%
Final Project	200	20%
Final Exam	150	15%
Total		100%

Grading	Grade
A	>=94%
A-	90-93%
B +	87-89%
B	85-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	60-63%
F	<=59%

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Assignments
1	Intro, Bootstrap, CSS	CSS Project
2	SASS and Advanced CSS	Continue CSS Project
3	Intro to JavaScript and Programming Concepts	JS Exercise 1
4	Problem Solving Logic, Ifs, Loops and Array	JS Exercise 2
5	JavaScript Logic Part 2	JS Exercise 3
6	JavaScript Frameworks, jQuery and others	Project 2 JS Assigned
7	Plugin Concept	Work on Project 2
8	Quizzes and Conflicts in JS	Project 2 Due
9	Data Visualization: Understanding Charts and Graphs	Charts Exercise 1
10	Data Visualization: Building Charts and Graphs	Project 3 Assigned
11	Data Visualization: Building Charts and Graphs Part 2	Project 3 Due
12	Data Visualization: D3.js	D3 Exercise 1
13	Data Visualization: D3.js	Final Project Assigned
14	Rest APIs	Work on Final Project
15	Final Project Development	Work on Final Project
16	Presentation and Demo of Final Projects	Turn In Final Project

EXAM: Saturday, December 4th at 12:00 Noon.

*Schedule is a guide and a goal for the class but is subject to change based on how quickly the class understands the material, weather and other factors.
