

Syllabus

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New to Figma? Get started with "Figma for beginners" tutorials

Syllabus

INF 385T Visual Design Unique #28755 Fall 2023	Monday, 6:00-9:00pm Online Daniel Kramer (he/him/his) danielkramer@utexas.edu Office hours: By appointment
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<p>Course description</p>	<p>This mixed-format course consisting of lecture, discussion, and studio will allow students of all experience levels to develop fundamental visual design theory and skills to prepare for careers in Informatics and related fields. Course topics include visual design foundations, user interface foundations, and design thinking methods. Students will have the opportunity to a design portfolio and a project for their portfolio. Students will engage with industry professionals to provide insight about professional careers in design. Student feedback will be collected throughout the course to ensure the curriculum is adding the most value for students.</p>
<p>Learning outcomes</p>	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop values to guide professional career. • Generate divergent ideas for ambiguous and complex problems. • Design and present work at the appropriate level of detail for the audience. • Critique design works of self and others with tact to improve output. • Demonstrate foundational graphic design skills by creating works with high attention to detail. • Develop cohesive visual systems across multiple mediums. • Support design rationale using appropriate design vocabulary. • Create accessible design works for all users. • Develop skills for mastering industry-used design software.
<p>How will you learn?</p>	<p>Teaching modality information Students can expect a mixed-format, in-person course consisting of lecture, discussion, and studio time to explore and practice course</p>

concepts and software. Students should expect in-person instruction unless otherwise directed by the university. Students can expect the following general course format for each class:

- First half of class time - lecture, guest speakers
- Second half of class time - critique, studio time

Note: Some weeks do not follow this format and are subject to change. Please review the course schedule for specific details.

Office hours

I'm always happy to chat during office hours by appointment! Please complete the [Office Hours Request Form](#) if you'd like to schedule time to chat. Once I received your request, I will follow up with my availability.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed, and that the diversity that students bring to this class can be comfortably expressed and be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit to all students. Please come to me at any time with any concerns.

Services for students with disabilities

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to

	<p>participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please refer to SSD's website for contact and more information: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.</p>
<p>Course requirements and attendance</p>	<p>Required materials</p> <p>Laptop - you need access to a laptop for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas • Dropbox Paper • Figma <p>Books - physical books recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>TED Talks: The Official TED Guide to Public Speaking</i> by Chris Anderson (~\$9) needed by October 9th <p>Attendance and participation</p> <p>Students are expected to attend every class. Every student should demonstrate ongoing engagement in class discussions. Absences will only be excused in situations following university policy (illness, religious holy days, participation in University activities at the request of university authorities, and compelling absences beyond your control) with proper documentation and timely notification (prior to class for non-emergencies).</p>
<p>Grading and evaluation</p>	<p>Projects: 85%</p> <p>Students will complete three assignments throughout the semester to supplement course</p>

concepts and objectives. Rubrics will be provided at the introduction of each assignment:

- 25% Project 1 - Portfolio MVP
- 40% Project 2 - UI Audit/Redesign
- 10% Project 3 - Portfolio V2
- 10% Project 4 - Design inspiration board (semester-long)

Attendance/Participation: 15%

Attendance and participation is critical to a student's development and class success. Students can expect a high degree of collaboration in a classroom environment where all students' voices and opinions matter. Attending every class, completing readings and assignments is crucial to actively engage in class discussions. Student attendance, willingness to discuss topics, and collaboration with classmates may be considered (positively or negatively) if a student earns a borderline grade.

Grading scale

All grades including final grades will be earned using the following scale:

- 100-94% = A
- 93-90% = A-
- 89-87% = B+
- 86-84% = B
- 83-80% = B-
- 79-77% = C+
- 76-74% = C
- 73-70% = C-
- 69-67% = D+
- 66-64% = D
- 63%-60% = D-
- F = <60%

Late work and missing work

I understand life happens, especially during a pandemic. Should students be unable to submit an assignment by the due date, they must submit an extension request on or before the assignment's due date. Therefore all students will be required to submit something on an assignment due date. Complete this form should you need an extension on an assignment. Explain why you were unable to complete the assignment on time. Please use this as an opportunity to reflect on your academic habits and I will use this as an opportunity to analyze if there are ways I can better support your academic success. Please submit an [Assignment extension request form](#).

Note: Students will be allowed a maximum of two extensions per semester. Extensions cannot be used for a unit's final assignment.

Course policies and disclosures**Academic Integrity Expectations**

Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

Confidentiality of class recordings

Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form.

Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Names and pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by your chosen name and by the gender pronouns you use. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's chosen (not legal) name, if you have provided one. If you wish to provide or update a chosen name, that can be done easily at this page, and you can add your pronouns to Canvas. Additionally, you have the opportunity to provide your chosen name and preferred pronouns in the course [Intro survey](#).

Artificial Intelligence

The creation of artificial intelligence tools for widespread use is an exciting innovation. These tools have both appropriate and inappropriate uses in classwork. The use of artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT) in this class shall be permitted on a limited basis. You will be informed as to the assignments for which AI may be utilized. You are also welcome to seek my prior-approval to use AI writing tools on any assignment. In either instance, AI writing tools should be used with caution and proper citation, as the use of AI should be properly attributed. Using AI writing tools without my permission or authorization, or failing to properly cite AI even where permitted, shall constitute a violation of UT Austin's Institutional Rules on academic integrity.

