

Fall 2011

GRA1151C: Illustration I

9:00 am - 12:20 pm • Wednesday • August 24 to December 7

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Welcome to Illustration I! The NWF State College Catalog describes this course as follows: *“A beginning course to develop basic technical and conceptual skills with a focus on an industry standard vector based drawing program. Students will create logos and illustrations typical of graphic design challenges.”*

This description gives you the basic idea. This syllabus will describe in detail what we will be exploring this semester. It will function as your guidebook, so hold on to it straight through to the end! Beware that this is an art course, so we will be proceeding in a relaxed manner designed to give you plenty of opportunity to explore and ask questions.

The goal of this course is to introduce you to Adobe Illustrator. Illustrator is used by graphic designers primarily to produce logos, illustrations, and single page document layouts such as magazine advertisements and posters. It is called “Illustrator” for a reason. It is a drawing tool first, and a page layout tool second. Drawing skills will have a direct and immediate impact on your ability to work with Illustrator. If your goal as a Graphic Designer is to be an illustrator that works in a drawing mode, and you haven’t taken a drawing class, I suggest you sign up for one next semester! All graphic designers should have some exposure to drawing, because it teaches you basic relationships between forms and composition. Two courses are strongly recommended as electives: Drawing I, and 2D Design. These are taught in the Visual Art Department, and can be used as elective credit in either the Graphic Arts Technology or Digital Media/Multimedia Technology degrees.

If this is your first class in our department, understand that this one is different from all of the rest. In the early stages of working with Illustrator, you will be frustrated. Unlike a photographic editing software like Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator presents you with a blank page. You must fill this blank page with your ideas, your creativity, and ultimately your drawings.

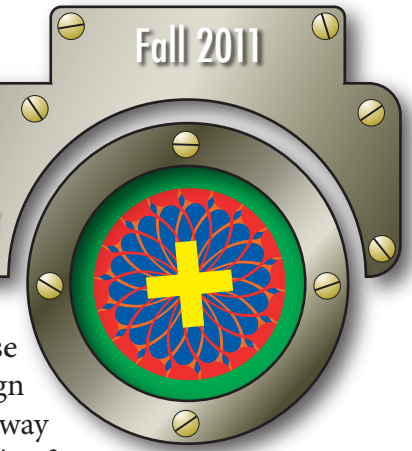
Graphic Design is an artistic field. Designers

draw. The way you use drawing skill in design is different from the way a fine artist draws. The fine artist often seeks to render a scene in great detail, or may extensively sketch forms with the goal of creating a painting. A designer works with Illustrator frequently in a different manner due to the nature of how the tool functions. Drawings in Illustrator are simplified or stylized in their appearance. Rendering a landscape scene or drawing someone’s portrait with much realism are not pursuits ideally suited to Illustrator. The word “Illustration” and “Illustrator” in the world of Graphic Design mean subtly different things than they mean in the world of fine art. Some professional illustrators might disagree with me, but I maintain there is a difference.

All of the above does not mean that you will not be able to use Illustrator if you are not expert in Drawing. Illustrator has many tools that are designed to make drawing easier. Also, Illustrator can be the software of choice for laying out single page documents. As time goes on, Illustrator is becoming a stronger interface design tool for web sites. It is critical that you have a basic understanding of Illustrator as you go out into the profession, and I think you will find that the drawing aspect of its use is far less intimidating as it may seem now.

You will be encouraged to start looking at design carefully and critically this semester. Hopefully you come into the course, and the major, with a great deal of curiosity about all manner of visual communication that you see. A good designer is always looking, always analyzing the world around us and the work of those who came before.

In this course we will NOT be using ANY CLIP ART or STOCK ART from CDs or elsewhere. Use of clip art will be considered academic dishonesty. The purpose of learning Illustrator is so that you may produce your own illustrations, not just arrange other artist’s work. Onward with no fear!



Equipment/Supplies:

(1) Several blank CD-R discs for storing your work. USB memory keys work but are slow and somewhat unreliable. You are required to maintain the integrity of your data. Failure of a disk (hard drive, flash drive, CD etc.) will not be considered excuse for late work. You **MUST** back up your own data. The computers may occasionally crash, as all computers do, so save early and often so that you don't lose several hours work!

(2) The textbook for the course is the Adobe Illustrator CS5 Classroom In a Book

(3) It is recommended that you have access to a good quality computer and Adobe Illustrator outside of class time. Open lab time will be available, but limited. If you are a major in our department, you should consider buying the complete Adobe Creative Suite of applications. A good choice would be either the "Design Standard" or "Design Premium" bundle. These are available at a highly discounted price through the NWFSC Store, or online from academic software vendors. Do NOT buy software from illegitimate super discount vendors. Many times you will receive illegal bootleg copies, and you may have problems with the software itself, or the serial numbers provided. Specific recommendations for computers are available. Generally, the Apple Macintosh® is the standard of our industry. It is largely a myth that "Macs are more expensive."

Attendance Issues:

Attendance in this course is extremely important as it is a hands on learning experience, not a lecture based course. You will be allowed two absences. After that, any additional absence will result in an immediate excessive absence report, which may result in your withdrawal from the course, or an automatic one letter grade drop in your final grade per absence. An excused absence may be given upon consultation with me but only in case of illness or emergency. **YOU WILL NOT PASS THIS COURSE** if your attendance becomes a problem. If you have more than four absences of any kind by November 1 (the last day for a W grade or to change to audit), you should withdraw from the course. If we get to the end of the semester and you have an excessive number of absences, you will receive an "F"

Note that showing up late for the class, leaving early, or only staying for ten minutes does not consti-

tute attendance. Attendance will be taken at random times during the class period, and it is your responsibility to ensure that you were recorded as present if there is any question in your mind.

In unusual situations like acute illness, death in the family etc., you may receive an "Incomplete" as your grade. Incomplete grades are made up outside of normal class attendance in open lab settings during the semester following receipt of the "I" grade. You must inform me of your situation and discuss your options. Incomplete grades are not automatic. See the NWF State College catalog for detailed descriptions of the college policies related to grading, attendance, etc.

You are expected to attend all class meetings. "I don't have anything to do" does not equal an excused absence. It is evidence that you are not participating in the course in a manner appropriate for an art student. Each and every class session is designed for you to have the freedom to explore the creative process with the tools at hand. Even if you have the software at home, you are still required to come to class. This is a basic college policy.

Course Requirements:

This is an art class. Your grades are based on your instructor's professional judgment of the success or failure of your concepts, aesthetics, and effort in completing assignments. In this class you will be graded at three intervals. There will be three creative challenges. Each of these will be weighted evenly (33.333%) in determination of your grade. Many times a student falls between grades. Rounding up or down will be determined by class participation. Class participation includes participation in discussions and interaction with instructor. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THIS COURSE.**

Graded work will be retained for approximately 4-6 weeks into the following semester. If it is not picked up in this time period, it may be recycled. **ALL PROJECTS MUST BE TURNED IN BURNED TO A CD IN OUR COMPUTERS. IF YOUR CD DOES NOT FUNCTION, IT WILL NOT BE GRADED. CHECK CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMITTING WORK. ENSURE THAT IT IS IN THE REQUIRED FORMAT!** The CD or DVD that you turn in will be retained for record keeping purposes throughout the semester.

In case of a campus emergency (power outages, hurricanes, war, famine, bee swarms, faculty illness) on a due date, the due date will be pushed back to the next avail-

able class session. If the College is closed for an extended period of a week or more, an adjustment of the course schedule will occur and you will be made aware of it the first day back. Late work will receive a 1 grade penalty—note the final project is due the last day of class, and therefore, cannot be turned in late.

Students are responsible for adherence to all College policies and procedures, including those related to academic freedom, cheating, classroom conduct, and other items included in the NWF State College Catalog and Student Handbook. Students should be familiar with the rights and responsibilities detailed in the 2011-12 NWF State College Catalog and Student Handbook. Plagiarism, cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and may trigger consequences which range from a failing grade to formal disciplinary action. Use of another person's images or designs constitutes plagiarism in this course. Only use your own images! Downloading any imagery from the internet for use in a project is strictly prohibited and will result in failure of the course. All of your work must be 100% originally produced by you. If you are unsure of what this means, consult with me immediately.

As a courtesy to other students and the learning process, students may not bring children with them to class sessions. Health and safety concerns prohibit children from accompanying adult students in any lab, shop, office or classroom or other college facility where potential hazards exist. If a child-related emergency means you must miss class, let me know when you return.

If you have special needs for which accommodations may be appropriate to assist you in this class, please contact the Office of Services for Students with Special Needs in Building C-1 on the Niceville Campus, or call 729-5372 (TDD1-800-955-8771 or Voice 1-800-955-8770). If you have special needs, you also must speak with me directly in the first week of class so that I fully understand and can create a plan to address your needs.

Due to the nature of our facility and the sensitivities of our students, please refrain from wearing colognes or perfumes to class.

What do your grades mean?

A= Work turned in on time. Work that clearly exceeds the basic expectations of the assignment. Work of unusual quality or quantity and seriousness of effort.

B= Work turned in on time. Work that exhibits a clear

attempt at exceeding the basic expectations of the assignment. Work exhibiting better than average quality or quantity and seriousness of effort.

C= Work of average quality and quantity. Work that satisfies essential basic requirements. Work that would benefit from further effort from student and more student interaction with instructor.

D= Work that is clearly not exhibiting the basic requirements of the assignment in either quality or quantity. An increase in effort is clearly needed and closer interaction with instructor is strongly suggested.

F= Work that fails to meet the lowest expectations for the assignment. This may be due to a simple lack of effort or may suggest that the student pursue other career goals.

Due Dates:

Project 1: October 12

Project 2: November 9

Project 3: December 7



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THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM. **December 7** IS THE LAST REQUIRED DAY OF ATTENDANCE. PROJECTS CANNOT BE SUBMITTED AFTER THIS DATE!