Instructor Introduction

Michael J Nuñez is an Adjunct Professor of Graphic Design at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). He received his BFA in graphic design with a drawing minor from UTEP and his MFA in Graphic Design and Illustration from Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania. While at Marywood, Michael was fortunate enough to study under Seymour Chwast and Milton Glaser’s nephew Steven Brower, among others.

After graduating from UTEP, Michael worked as the Director of Graphic Design Services for UTEP’s Communication Department before moving to Malvern, Pennsylvania where he was asked to build the graphic design department at Immaculata University’s communication department. During this time he spearheaded the redesign of the alumni magazines from cover to cover and set the foundation for the graphic standards for both universities.

Michael is a proficient visual communicator with over twenty years of graphic design and problem solving experience. His passion for Gestalt theory and philosophy has served as a solid foundation for his continued growth. Although his experience has mostly been rooted in corporate and higher education graphic design, he has also taught high school courses and is frequently recognized as a natural teacher by many of his professional colleagues. Michael’s passion for sharing his knowledge with all who are willing to learn is the inspiration for why he is standing before you today.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Graphic Design 1: Computer Graphics is an introduction to graphics, illustration, and page layout software on Macintosh computers. Students scan, generate, import, process, and combine images and text in black and white and in color. Industry standard desktop publishing software and imaging programs are used. The essential applications taught in this course are: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe InDesign.

COURSE PREREQUISITE INFORMATION

Course prerequisites include ARTF 1301, ARTF 1302, and ARTF 1304 each with a grade of “C” or better. Students are required to have a foundational understanding of the elements of design, the principles of composition, style, and content. Additionally, students must have developed fundamental drawing skills. These skills and knowledge sets are provided through the Department of Art’s Foundational Courses. Students are also required to have a working familiarity using a computer including: hard drive folder navigation for saving and retrieving documents, cut and paste and basic word processing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

• Practical and real-world introductory experience using Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign.
• Development of improved visual communication skills as they relate to digital image making and graphic design. Course

OUTCOMES

• Experience and fundamental competency using Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign.
REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS
Sketch book
Thumb drive
Pencils
Eraser
Ruler

REQUIRED SOFTWARE
Adobe Photoshop
Adobe Illustrator
Adobe InDesign

Note: Access to the required software is available in the classroom lab and various campus labs (Library 3rd floor computer lab and Fox Fine Arts building 3rd floor Graphic Design lab during open lab hours). Full list of labs: https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/SOFTWARE_PAGES/soft_adobecreativecloud.html Students also have access to Adobe from personal computer, just download Adobe and sign in with UTEP credentials. NOTICE: when using Adobe software in different labs across campus may result in unexpected results. Be sure that you are using the same version of Adobe CC that is installed in the computer lab Fox Fine Arts A349A

GRADING CRITERIA
Graphic Design 1: Computer Graphics is designed around three modules and two tests.
• Illustrator
• Photoshop
• InDesign
Specific grades are applied as follow:
• 7 Illustrator assignments
• 5 Photoshop assignments
• 3 InDesign module assignments
• 1 Final Project

• Final Project
• Mid-tern and Final tests
• 2 Tests
• In some cases work for one assignment will be required for completion of an other.
• Attendance and performance as related to the Task/Program

ASSIGNMENTS
No assignment will be accepted after the assigned due date and time, with the exception of a documented serious personal illness or death in the immediate family. All assignments are submitted digitally via Blackboard, no assignment will be accepted via regular email. Students are required to verify that their submission has been uploaded correctly and will display accurately for evaluation purposes. While working on the computer students are encouraged to save all work early and often. Students are responsible for keeping a back up copy of all work files, separate from saving files on a single computer. Any work “lost” due to lack of organization or any failure to save and back up files must be recreated by the student for delivery at the assigned due date and time (this includes the final project).

EVALUATION STANDARDS:
Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
• Students will use critical thinking skills to research and identify essential assignments, related instruction (online books and videos), manage assignment development, and exhaustively work to solve problems they may encounter in advance of requesting instructors help.
• Students will follow assignment instructions and work to exceed basic requirements. (It is my experience that typically the greatest number of point deductions result from not following instructions.)
• Students will demonstrate a resistance for premature assignment resolution and strive to resolve assignments via repeated attempts to rework and improve upon solutions.
• Students must learn to pay attention to the little details. Design is all about consistency and detail!

SKILLED USE OF SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY
Students will demonstrate the ability to skillfully select and use essential tools and processes of each software application effectively and productively.

DESIGN
• While students may not be asked to address high-level visual decision making, they will demonstrate knowledge and practice of standard design principles, processes and elements.
• Students will demonstrate visual awareness in producing work that exhibits attention to detail.
• Students will demonstrate an understanding of tools learned and apply them to design.
• Students will also demonstrate an understanding of programs and how each relate to design.


COURSE POLICIES

- Students are permitted 3 absences during the semester without penalty. Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student. Students with more than 3 absences should consider dropping the course and retaking it at a time when the student can commit the proper attention to the course.
- Excused absences are defined as documented serious illness, death in the immediate family, or University sanctioned events with prior approval.
- Each additional unexcused absence after 3 will result in the final course grade being lowered a full letter grade. After 5 unexcused absences you should drop the course.
- Late to class (ARRIVING AFTER THE ROLL IS TAKEN) constitutes one half of an absence. That is, 2 tardys = 1 unexcused absence.
- Coming to class unprepared (not having the required materials) or attending class and not working is regarded and recorded as an unexcused absence.
- Coming to class late and returning late from a break will be recorded as a half absences. 2 half absences constitute 1 full absence. Leaving class early without permission is regarded as a full absence.
- NO TEXTING! If student is found violating this policy a verbal warning will be given at first, if found violating policy a second time a half absence will be recorded for the day.
- Students are required and expected to work on classroom computers during class time and not on personal laptops or tablets.
- Use of tablets for any assignment is prohibited unless permission has been granted by instructor.
- Please turn off your cell phones before entering class. If, because of an emergency situation, you must have your phone on, inform the instructor, put the phone on silent mode and exit if needed.
- If a student's cell phone rings during class, a half absence will be recorded for the day.
- Music is not allowed during any instruction, lecture, or during critique. Students may listen to music at a low volume with headphones during any other class time as long as it does not disturb other students. NO VIDEO STREAMING APPS, SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, SNAPCHAT, TIKTOK) AND NO YOUTUBE. If you wish to listen to music please use a music app that does not require your attention. If student is found violating this policy a verbal warning will be given at first, if found violating policy a second time a half absence will be recorded for the day.
- NO PERSONAL WEB BROWSING OR PRINTING!!!!

GRADING STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

Grading consequences for poor participation and performance not specifically related to the evaluation of assignments will be applied at the discretion of the instructor. A final letter grade will be assigned at the end of the term, based upon the total possible points according to the following scale:

A 90-100 SUPERIOR
Represents outstanding work reflective of effort and performance of exceptional ability and absolute quality.

B 80-89.99 AVERAGE
Represents effort and performance beyond expectations.

C 70-79.99 AVERAGE
Represents adequate work that fulfills requirements and expectations.

D 60-69.99 BELOW AVERAGE
Represents less than average performance and is considered underachieved. Credit given.

F BELOW 60 UNACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE
No credit given.

I: An incomplete is considered for students completing satisfactory work or better and having serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All "I" grades are at the discretion of the instructor, with the approval of the department chair and the dean.

W: The withdrawal option must be completed on or before the final drop date (Nov 2). Students are fully responsible for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. The instructor may recommend a student to withdraw but is not responsible for withdrawing a student from the class.

COURSE CALENDAR: A detailed assignment and class calendar will be provided.

TIME MANAGEMENT

The rule of thumb for time planning for a course is approximately three (3) hours for every credit hour taken. This is a standard figure recommended across the board by American universities. For a 3 credit studio course, you should expect to spend 6 hours of class time + 9 hours of study and prep time = 15 hours per week.

Students are encouraged to communicate with each other inside and outside of the classroom. Do not isolate yourself. Furthermore, if at any time during the course of the semester you find yourself lost or falling behind please contact me immediately using my UTEP email.
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION
Attendance, punctuality, participation and appropriate class conduct are considered performance criteria for this class. Failure to perform at the required standards will result in strong grade penalties and can result in course failure.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
- Each student is permitted 3 absences during the semester without penalty. Students with more than 3 class absences should consider dropping this course and retaking it at a time when the student can commit the proper attention to the course.
- Each unexcused absence after 3 will result in the final course grade being lowered 1 full letter grade. Absences after the first 3 can be excused only if the first 3 absences are excused.
- Excused absences are defined as documented illness or serious illness or death in the immediate family.

COURSE PARTICIPATION:
- Participation in all discussions, critiques and class days is required for this course.
- Development and execution of class projects must be done utilizing all class meetings. Projects executed solely out of class will not be accepted.
- Participation in the collaborative group environment of the studio is essential to the successful completion of this course.

CLASS CONDUCT:
A successful career in graphic design requires more than talent, skill, and knowledge. By definition, a professional designer observes professional standards. Among other things, these standards demand a commitment to the work and respectful, courteous behavior towards colleagues, clients, competitors, service providers, and audience – in other words, RESPECT EVERYONE. Professional standards should always prevail in the workplace, the studio, and the classroom. No matter how skilled a designer may be, one is unlikely to achieve success without a professional standard.

- Everyone enrolled in this course is expected to behave in a professional manner. Your classmates are your colleagues; treat them with the respect they, and you, deserve.
- Disruptive and/or inattentive behavior is inappropriate; as a rule, such behavior will be treated as an absence.
- Talking on a cell phone, texting, instant messaging, tweeting, etc. are examples of disruptive and disrespectful behavior.
- The class meets for two hours and 50 minutes. Breaks will be provided. Leaving early, without permission, will be treated as an absence. Failure to return promptly from a break will be treated as an absence.
- Class time is devoted to the lecture, class discussion, demonstrations, critiques, and the development/execution of class projects.
- Cell phones should be silenced, turned off, or put on the vibrate mode. If you absolutely need a cell phone for an emergency, please alert the instructor.
- Projects executed solely out of class will not be accepted. (I must see your progress in class.) Participation in the collaborative group environment of the studio is essential to the successful completion of this course.
- Class time, including both studio and lab time, is provided so that you can work on the projects assigned in this course only. Working on projects assigned in other courses, without permission, will be treated as an absence.
- When using the lab, always observe the posted lab rules.
- Coming to class late or leaving class early is regarded and graded as being absent. All students are required to attend class on-time and to remain in class the entire time. Entering class late and leaving early is disruptive to the learning environment.
- Coming to class unprepared or attending class and not working is regarded as absent.
- Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student.
- Never enter a studio or a lab when another class is in session without the instructor’s permission, (as a rule, it is best to get that permission ahead of time.) Students must act in a safe and reasonable way at all times in the studio and computer lab.
- Surfing, unless it is related to research for a class project, is inappropriate.
- iPods, MP3 players, and other personal entertainment devices are not allowed during lecture, demonstrations, class discussion, or critique. Remove the ear buds and pay attention. Remember that inattentive behavior will be treated as an absence.
- iPods, MP3 players, and other personal entertainment devices are allowed during work periods, so long as the volume is adjusted so that it doesn’t disturb your colleagues. In other words, if your neighbor can hear your music, it’s too loud. Turn it down.
- Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Work completed in another class may not be substituted for work assigned in this class, and will be treated as plagiarism. See the Cheating and Plagiarism policy below.
- Children and pets are not permitted in the studio nor the lab.
- Any questions regarding safe and reasonable behavior and practices should be directed to the instructor and only the instructor.
LATE ASSIGNMENTS, MAKE-UP WORK AND EXAMS:
Late assignments, make-up work and make-up exams are only afforded in the case of excused absences by arrangement and approval of the instructor.

ARTG 2306 GRAPHIC DESIGN 1 IS A GRADE-BASED COURSE AND IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR AUDIT OR PASS/FAIL OPTIONS.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM POLICY:
Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm for further information.

DISABILITIES:
I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class and within the first two weeks of the semester. Alternatively you can schedule an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have.
If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact The Disabled Student Services Office located in East Union Bldg., Room 106, also within the first two weeks of the semester.

The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached by:
Web: http://www.utep.edu/dsso
Phone: 915-747-5148
Fax: 915-747-8712
E-Mail: dss@utep.edu
Subject: Disabled Student Services

COVID-19
• This is a face to face, in person course that requires a student's use of the studio's working space.
• In order to assure the safety of all, please practice safe and respectful distancing as much as possible.
• Respect the workspace of others.
• Students are highly encouraged to avoid sharing any materials. So please make sure you have all the necessary materials with you.
• Students must be aware of the possible forced changes that are out of UTEP control and accept the syllabus as contract to that fact.

The Structure of This Course May Change at Any Time if Mandated by the City of El Paso and/or UTEP.

COVID-19 Precautions/Accommodations
• Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know immediately, so that we can work on the appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide support and help in communicating with your professors.
Tell me about yourself. What is important for me to know. What are you expecting from this class.

ARTG 2306 SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND COURSE CONTRACT ACCEPTANCE.
I have received and reviewed the attached syllabus. I have had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification and I understand and agree to the conditions of this syllabus.

COURSE # -ARTG 2306 CRN:23898 SEMESTER DATE - SPRING 2024

Name (print):  

Signature:  

UTEP Student ID # - - -