

NSCAD DSGN 1000-OL1

Digital Tools for Designing

Summer 2024

Instructor: Robert Currie
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6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Tuesdays
Online
3 Credits

Class web site: <http://nscad.geneva9.com/>

Office Location/Hours: Slack or email

Course Description:

This foundation course focuses on developing an introductory understanding of the knowledge and skill a designer must have to effectively communicate with digital tools. The course focuses on demonstration, practice and application of digital software. For example, introduction to imaging basics and composite images are explored through Photoshop; vector drawing in Illustrator, page layout fundamentals through InDesign, and a 3D modelling program. Other core concepts of digital images are covered, such as colour, font, file formats (file size/dimension, DPI, image type files and when to use JPEG, PNG or GIF etc) and designing with code (using a language such as Processing). Skills acquired in this course are fundamental to further develop creative and professional practice.

Learning Outcomes*:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. apply knowledge of the role of digital tools in designing/creative practice
2. understand digital capabilities that may be required in designing/creative practice
3. apply basic skill in core concepts related to digital skills for designing/creative practice

**Please note that each Learning Outcome must be successfully achieved before a final grade for the course is assigned*

NSCAD Covid-19 Update

- If you are unwell, please stay at home and let your instructors know if you will be missing class time. If you test positive for COVID-19, you should self-isolate until you test negative or are symptom free and inform your instructors about your situation.
- Please note that as of May 1, 2023, masks are no longer required in indoor instructional spaces.

Interdisciplinary Design:

Interdisciplinary design involves working across traditional boundaries of media and disciplines, and requires a set of tools that can address a broad set of problems. This class emphasizes a core set of software tools that are commonly used across a range of design disciplines, and provides exposure to selected tools used in more specialized or emerging disciplines.

In addition to creative tools, students will be introduced to working with design briefs, technical requirements, constraints and research, as well as communication and presentation tools widely used in the design world.

Student Workload:

Total student workload for a 3 credit course is estimated to be 9 hours/week, including scheduled class time.

Course Format:

This course will be conducted online. This course serves as an introduction to Digital Tools for Designing. Students will be expected to attend weekly classes, participate in class exercises and discussions. All course projects need to be completed in full by the set due dates.

Course Requirements, Resources, Materials:

Course requirements:

This class will require access a computer running specific software, mainly the Adobe CC suite, and a reliable internet connection. You will need a computer that can install and run the Adobe Creative Suite programs. This can

be a Mac or a Windows PC, but please note that for higher level classes (at the 2000 level and above) in design, a reasonably powerful Mac laptop is strongly encouraged. See the HSELS policy attached to this outline.

A licence for the Adobe CC suite is provided through NSCAD for the duration of the class. Detail on how to do this will be sent as part of the class introduction process.

You can find the minimum requirements for Macs and PCs here: <https://helpx.adobe.com/ca/illustrator/system-requirements.html>

If you have a computer already and it meets the minimum requirements, you can use that existing computer for this class.

NSCAD Attendance Policy:

To achieve this course's learning objectives, students are required to attend and participate in classes, according to your instructor's requirements. For studio and non-lecture courses: many of the topics and content delivered in this course will be taught through class demonstrations, discussions, and activities. As such, your attendance and participation are essential to your successful learning process. *However, students should NOT attend in person classes if they are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or if they are feeling unwell.*

Students should familiarise themselves with their course's attendance policies and pay special attention to their instructor's guidelines regarding attendance requirements. Your instructor will provide information on the attendance policy specific to this course. *In case of illness or COVID-related symptoms, please contact your instructor immediately by email to discuss options for completing your course work.*

Students will not be penalised for having to self-isolate during illness. In this event, course materials and assignment will be made available for completion in an alternative way to be communicated to you by your instructor

NSCAD University Occupational Health and Safety Policy:

At NSCAD safety is a priority. All students are required to obtain and maintain up-to-date safety (WHMIS) certification. An on-line Brightspace certification process is available to all NSCAD students.

Please note that your NSCAD ID card needs an up-to-date Health and Safety (WHMIS) sticker to access shops and studios, and for Security to permit you access to the university campus sites after hours. WHMIS training is provided online through students' Brightspace account.

Evaluation Criteria:

Completion of all assignments is mandatory. Evaluation will be based on a number of assignments, quizzes, and a research/essay assignment. Participation in class will also account for a portion of the grade. The majority of assignments and projects will be completed outside of normal lab instruction hours. Dates and details will be provided in the course outline and as the course progresses. All work must be submitted entirely in English.

Grade Weights

Assignments:.....	50%	In-class practical quiz...	15%
Quizzes:.....	10%	Class participation:	10%
Writing assignment: ...	15%		

Grading System:

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Grade Point Score	Descriptive Term
A+	95 and above	4.3	Excellent
A	90-94	4.0	Excellent
A-	85-89	3.7	Very Good
B+	80-84	3.3	Very Good
B	73-79	3.0	Good
B-	67-72	2.7	Good
C+	63-66	2.3	Satisfactory
C	59-62	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	55-58	1.7	Satisfactory
D	50-54	1.0	Marginal
F(Fail)	49 and below		

Academic Integrity:

A climate and culture of academic integrity is an expectation of everyone. Students at NSCAD are required to comply with standard academic practices in acknowledging sources in all work presented for academic credit.

New Academic Integrity Policy

Please be sure to read NSCAD's NEW Academic and Integrity Policy: <https://navigator.nscad.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/3.5-Academic-Integrity-Policy-Final.pdf>

Note on use of machine learning/artificial intelligence tools

Machine learning and artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT, dall-e, midjourney, and many others) are evolving rapidly. These tools generate text, images or other media by recombining elements of existing works.

The NSCAD Academic Integrity policy is clear. Use of such tools without fully crediting the source is a violation of NSCAD's plagiarism policy. Punishments range up to a mark of zero for the assignment, failing the course or expulsion from NSCAD. Material created, in whole or in part, by tools like ChatGPT or other similar AI/ Large Language Models (or any other software to generate text, images or other media) cannot, ever, be considered your own work.

Each assignment will have clear rules for use of media and citations. Ask if you have any questions, and keep in mind the basic rule: all work you submit must be your own, unless the assignment includes clear written instructions stating otherwise.

Writing Center:

The NSCAD Writing Centre in S403 offers professional tutoring for any kind of written assignment, at any level of study, at any stage of the work. Specialised workshops will also be offered during the term. Please see the Writing Centre web page for more information and booking online at <https://nscad.ca/student-experience/academic-resources/writing-centre/>.

Accessibility Policy:

Accommodations can be arranged for disability-related needs by contacting accessibility@nscad.ca. Students are encouraged to connect with the Accessibility Office as early in the term as possible. Students can connect with the Accessibility Office at any point in the semester or time as a NSCAD student to access or learn more about the available supports. Visit: <https://nscad.ca/student-experience/academic-resources/accessibility/> for more information and to find the Accessibility Policy which includes a protocol that clearly outlines everyone's roles and responsibilities in the accommodation process.

Spiritual/ Religious Observance:

Requests for accommodations for spiritual or religious observances must be presented in writing to the instructor within the first two weeks of class.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Teaching and learning at NSCAD takes place in Mi'kma'ki, on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq Nation. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources, but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Schedule

Classes begin	May 6, 2024
Last day to add a course	May 13, 2024
Graduation Day	May 14, 2024
Victoria Day – No Classes.....	May 20, 2024
Courses dropped begin to be recorded as 'W'	May 31, 2024
Faculty mid-session warning.....	June 18, 2024
University Closed – Canada Day	July 1, 2024
Last day to drop course.....	July 3, 2024
University Closed – Natal Day	August 5, 2024
Semester classes end	August 12, 2024
Last day for grade submission.....	August 16, 2024

Need support/help?

NSCAD is aware of the challenges caused by COVID-19 and is concerned about our students' health and well-being. Here are some resources to help you have a successful and productive academic term:

[COVID-19 Information and Updates](#)

[Wellness Resources](#)

[Counselling and Psychological Services](#)

[Writing Centre](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

[SUNSCAD Food Bank](#)

[The Learning Commons](#)