

DMA 100 – Digital Foundations

UNM Valencia, Digital Media Arts

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Fall 2015

Tuesday | Thursday, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

UNM Learn Enhanced Course

Professor: Alexa Wheeler

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Campus Office Hours: M 2:30-4:30 | T TH 1-1:30pm | and by appointment

Virtual Office Hours: M-Sun - by email, text, and by appointment for live chat

**see "How to Contact the Instructor" below

Office: Business & Technology Building Rm. 110A

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with a fundamental working knowledge of the technical, aesthetic, and conceptual aspects of creating digital artwork using a variety of tools in the Adobe Creative Suite Design Premium. Lectures, demonstrations, discussions, and other content will introduce various issues of design and design principles, as well as the software needed to accompany these problems. Assigned projects, readings, presentations, and group critiques will assist in a critical understanding better preparing the student for continued study in the digital media arts.

Objectives

- Demonstrate excellent understanding of the foundations of digital imaging and creation as it applies to all the digital media tools by understanding major developments in graphic arts as they have occurred throughout time and developing a familiarity with the variety of media available in the graphic arts and understand the limitations and opportunities offered by these various materials and techniques.
- Develop a good working knowledge of the basics of the Adobe Creative Suite: Illustrator, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and Flash
- Demonstrate an excellent understanding of the components of art and design (balance, unity, line, composition, color theory, visual rhythm, etc...), and use this language to discuss, debate, and create.
- Demonstrate an excellent understanding in the concepts of visual principles and design
- Enhance your ability to think visually and communicate your ideas as such.
- Perfect your ability to discuss and defend your work in relation to concepts, ideas, techniques, processes, and experiences.
- Demonstrate an excellent understanding of the components of art and design (balance, unity, line, composition, color theory, visual rhythm, etc...), and use this language to discuss, debate, and create.
- Gain an excellent working knowledge of the Mac computer and it's operating system

Required Online Subscription

lynda.com Online Video Tutorial Library

See "Class Schedule" below for which libraries to access throughout the semester

Available free of charge to UNM students at: lynda.unm.edu

Student Responsibilities/Attendance/Participation

Student Responsibilities:

- Students must have basic computer and file management skills for all DMA courses. Custom tutoring services are available through the TLC. Required pre/co requisite is IT 101: Computer FUNdamentals. Students that fall behind due to lack of basic computer skills will be dropped.
- Bring a USB Flash Drive (at least 8 GB) to every class. Make sure it is clearly labeled with your name on it. Always keep a back-up of ALL classwork.
- Have a UNM netID to access UNM Learn: Beginning Fall 2015 semester, all UNM-Valencia students will need a UNM Net ID which can be created by going to: <http://it.unm.edu/accounts/>. UNM Net ID will give you access to the computer labs on campus, blackboard learn and UNM Email.
- Computer Lab Responsibility: Please be advised that use of computer labs on UNM properties is governed by "Policy 2500: Acceptable Computer Use" which can be found at <http://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2500.html>. Food and drink are also prohibited in any computer lab on campus. Anyone violating these policies is subject to possible suspension and loss of computer lab privileges.
- If you have a disability, please inform me of your needs as soon as possible to ensure that your needs are met in a timely manner.
- Cell phones need to be muted during class times. If you must receive a call, leave the lab before you answer. No phone conversations in the studio. No web browsing, email, or text messaging during lectures, demos, discussions, or critiques.
- **COMPUTERS WILL BE OFF DURING ALL CRITIQUES!!!**

Attendance/Participation:

- Students are required to complete all projects on time, participate in scheduled critiques/class discussions, and maintain a safe, respectable, positive lab environment.
- Students are required to attend class, arrive on time, remain present until the end of class, and be prepared for each day's work. More than three absences without prior consultation may result in a failing grade or a drop from the class. Leaving early or arriving late three times results in one absence.
- If you have not attended class for three consecutive class periods and have made no attempt to text/email/IM/contact me, you WILL be dropped.
- Students who do not attend the first week of class will automatically be dropped.
- Students will need to work a few hours each week in addition to the scheduled class times. Open lab hours will be announced

Grading Policy

Grading:

- Grading is based on a timely completion of course assignments, the quality of individual technical and critical development, conceptual progress, personal commitment and the ability to work in a community studio setting. Personal commitment involves regular attendance, consistent effort, completion of work, participation in critiques and class discussions, and the general willingness to try. Make each project meaningful to yourself!
- Each assignment will culminate in a critique, which will consist of pinning up your work and/or projecting your completed work in class for all to see. All due dates will be announced in the YELLOW BOX on UNM Learn, as well as on the syllabus. No full credit will be given for any late work. If an assignment is not presented on time, an automatic 0 will be issued. You will need to make arrangements with me if you are planning to make-up the work, and a fair grade will be issued once the work has been submitted, presented, and critiqued, minus an automatic one letter grade deduction.

- Incompletes are rarely issued. If 75% of the semester's work/projects/deliverables and participation/attendance have been completed with a satisfactory grade, and incomplete may be issued.

Grading Breakdown

Semester Requirements:

Projects (4) 100 points 25 points each

Make-Up/Extra Credit:

Extra Credit 10 points maximum for the semester

Points will be added up and a letter grade will be issued according to the following scale:

A+	101+
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	64-67
D-	60-63
F	50-59

How to Contact the Instructor

Weekly Office Hours:

- Office Hours are held weekly on-campus and virtually.
- M 2:30-4:30 | T TH 1-1:30pm | and by appointment
- Virtually, reach me any other time through email , text, (see below).

Email:

- I prefer all email to be from the internal UNM Learn class email. How to email through UNM Learn is clearly explained in the "Getting Started" Learning Module. I will check this UNM Learn email regularly and will respond to all emails within 48 hours, and usually sooner.
- Although less preferred, you can email me at alexa08@unm.edu. In the Subject Line of the email, ALWAYS write your full name and class number. For example – "Laurie Anderson DMA 100"

Text:

You can also reach me **BY TEXT ONLY** at: 505-515-1055. I WILL NOT answer phone calls and ask that you please NEVER LEAVE A MESSAGE!!! Any messages left by students will be deleted and will not constitute an attempt at communication. In the event of an absence, you will be counted unexcused if you only left a message and made no other written attempt at communication. I prefer all communication between instructor and student outside of class time to be in written format for this class. If you must reach me or have an emergency, USE: email, IM, text, or my office phone (if needing to leave a message – as a last resort) at 925-8702.

Support Information, Resources, & Tutorials

Open Studio Time – Digital Media Arts Open Lab & Darkroom:

- Located in Room 123A in the Business & Technology Building (directly in front of the current B&T open computer lab Room 123). You will need to enter the lab through the current B&T computer lab and sign-in to use the computers.
- Times and hours posted on UNM Learn

Support for UNM Learn:

- o - UNM Learn help: http://UNM_Learninfo.unm.edu/student/.

DMA / UNM Valencia Tutoring Services:

- We are proud to have our very own DMA tutor available for Digital Media Arts specific courses! You can walk-in or if you prefer to make an appointment during these times, please call the Learning Center at 925-8900.
- Custom tutoring services are available through The Learning Center <http://www.unm.edu/~tutor/>. Even online tutoring is available!

Other tutorials: I will post a number of links to video tutorials in UNM Learn for this course.

Instructor Support:

- Please see "How to Contact the Instructor" for methods of contacting the instructor for help.

Community Support:

- We will have a HELP FORUM discussion board in the UNM Learn course. Use this as a place to post questions to the community. It is important for peer learning and peer communication to enhance our community.

Project 1: Illustrator

Objective:

Familiarize students with tools in Illustrator and the investigation into elements of design and color theory. Consider the use of color, and what it means to work within a distinct color family. Learn how to organize, manage, save, and print files. To understand what a logo is, and what elements are needed to brand a company.

Process:

For this and all upcoming projects, you will be using one consistent theme throughout the work. You need to pick a theme for the entire semester, and stick with it. This project will ultimately become the logo in your banner (photoshop project). Design and illustrate a logo for either a real or fictitious company. Choose a product to market for this company. Incorporate all technical requirements as listed below. Consider: How does the typography enhance the design? What graphics will really depict your company? Do the product and the packaging have a harmonious relationship? Yes? No? Why?

Technical Requirements:

1. Document must be 5.5" x 5.5"
2. Use at least three of the shape tools – NO LENS FLARE!!
3. Constrain the proportions of at least 1 shape
4. Create at least 1 Object Group
5. Include at least 3 logically organized layers in your design
6. Apply strokes and fills to at least 3 objects using the Appearance Panel
7. Apply at least 1 effect to an object (or group) using the Effects in the Appearance Panel
8. Live trace at least 1 object using File>Place

9. Use text at least once (can be text on a path)
10. Gradient - optional
11. You may find the need to: refine curves, cut paths, join paths, erase paths, and add and remove anchor points as you work on these requirements for your illustration
12. Save as an Illustrator file (.ai) and also a .pdf
13. If you choose, you may turn in a "simple" logo – one that does not fulfill all of these requirements, as well as a "complicated" logo that does fulfill all of these requirements. You NEED to like this logo as it will stick with you the rest of the semester!

*Remember - no linked images, EMBED images. Also, no "NOT FOUND" fonts. Create outlines of all fonts.

Project 2: Photoshop

Objective:

To introduce Mac OS and Photoshop. To introduce hardware: computer, printer, scanner. Familiarize students with basic tools in Photoshop and many basic elements of design and color theory. To understand the basics of concept and "series" in the visual arts. To begin digital manipulation.

Process:

This project will ultimately become the banner for your Dreamweaver website. You could consider: advertising a product (yours, real, fictitious), marketing yourself (designer, artists, illustrator, landscaper, photographer), helping out a friend or family member to market their business, pick a department on our campus that needs a new look, selling an invention, publicizing an event, etc... Be creative!

Technical Requirements:

1. Create a new document
2. Resolution of 300 pixels/inch
3. Width of 1024 pixels, and height of 225 pixels
4. Must merge at least two separate photos together, for example - your banner and your logo
5. Must include at least 3 complicated selections brought in from another image(s) or source(s), including any combination of the Magic Wand tool, the Lasso tool, the Quick Selection tool, a Quick Mask, and/or the Pen tool. All three of these selections MUST be saved as Alpha Channels with your document.
6. All elements must be organized logically onto separate layers, at a minimum of 5 layers for the project, with unique naming
7. Must use at least two adjustment layers: 1 levels or curves, 1 of your choice in the Adjustments panel
8. At least 1 of the adjustment layers must not include the entire image, and must therefore be based on a selection
9. Must include at least 1 text layer
10. Use the Clone Tool or Spot Healing Brush tool - optional
11. Save your file "For the Web", (jpeg or gif), Photoshop PDF, and native PSD (turn in 3 formatted files). The native PSD file MUST include all layers (no flattening) in the appropriate network folder.
12. Print one for critique – optional extra credit

Project 3: Flash

Objective:

Familiarize students with the tools and practices of importing, drawing, and creating shapes, artwork, and animations in Flash. To understand the basic ingredients of the interface: creating new documents, saving files, testing animations, tools overview, color palette, swatches, tweens, masks, guide layers, and layers in general. To create a basic animation in an environment.

Process:

Continuing the theme of your semesters' long series, create a short animation highlighting an unusual idea behind your chosen topic. This will ultimately become a side banner animation on your website!

Technical Requirements:

1. New ActionScript 3.0 document
2. A 200 x 200 stage measured in pixels (or you can animate your banner at 1024 x 225)
3. Frame rate of 24 fps
4. Animation must be a solid 15 seconds of great animation. Can be longer, but do not sacrifice quality for length.
5. Consider: creating shapes using the Merged Drawing model and Object Drawing model
6. Explore: the line, pen, and pencil tools
7. Export your movie as a Quicktime (.mov), Flash SWF and Animated GIF (3 files)
8. Place 4 files in your network folder for this project: the SWF, the Quicktime, the GIF and the original Flash document

Project 4: Dreamweaver

Objective:

To design, develop, and publish a website with recommended design practices using Dreamweaver.

Process:

For this project, you will be putting together at least a 2 page website continuing the theme you have chosen. You will use the image you made in Photoshop for Project 1 as the banner for this website. Consider the emotional use of color!

Technical Requirements:

1. Create a new HTML document – can be a built-in Dreamweaver template
2. Size of the website must be 1024x768
3. Must have at least a 2 page website based on a template you create and with proper page Titles
4. Must include one editable region (content area)
5. Must include page navigation (links)
6. Must include a consistent banner and footer area. Footer area must include a copyright.
7. Must have either a background pattern (beware!) or color
8. Must have one external link - target blank
9. Must have one email link
10. All links must be styled, and not be the Dreamweaver default blue/purple
11. Insert your flash animation in the sidebar (or banner if you chose to do so above)
12. Does not have to be uploaded live, but can be if you wish, time permitting.
13. Optional (extra credit): A different content image on each of the two pages with proper ALT tags
14. Save in your network folder – must have good file management and "root" folder directory.

Dates	Schedule	Online Tutorials (lynda.unm.edu)	Projects
<u>Week 1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review Syllabus • Review UNM Learn • Lecture • Equipment Overview • Supplies Overview • Lynda.com • Networking in the classroom 	Illustrator Essential Training	
<u>Week 2</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo – Key Illustrator Concepts, Creating Documents, Interface, Basic Drawing, Basic Path & Text Editing • Work time 	Illustrator Essential Training	
<u>Week 3</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo – Understanding Appearances, Working with Groups and Layers, Saving and Printing • Work time 	Illustrator Essential Training	
<u>Week 4</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 1 Critique • Work Time 		Project 1 Due: Illustrator
<u>Week 5</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo – Photoshop Interface, Basics • Work time 	Photoshop Essential Training	
<u>Week 6</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo – Selections, Layers, Photo Manipulation • Work time 	Photoshop Essential Training	
<u>Week 7</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo – Photo Adjustments, Photo Retouching • Work time 	Photoshop Essential Training	
<u>Week 8</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo – Painting, Text, Output (printing) • Work time 	Photoshop Essential Training	

<u>Week 9</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 2 critique 		Project 2 Due: Photoshop
<u>Week 10</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo - Getting Started, Drawing, Working with Text and the Timeline • Work time 	Flash Professional Essential Training	
<u>Week 11</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo – Publishing and Exporting • Work time 	Flash Professional Essential Training	
<u>Week 12</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 3 critique 		Project 3 Due: Flash
<u>Week 13</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo – Getting Started, Dreamweaver Interface, Site Control, Creating New Documents 	Dreamweaver Essential Training	
<u>Week 14</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo – Working with Images, Creating Links • Work time 	Dreamweaver Essential Training	
<u>Week 15</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work time • Finalize and refine all projects for final web page presentation 		
<u>Week 16</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 4 critique 		Project 4 Due: Dreamweaver & Final Presentation