
Course Information

course number:	GPHD 25	prerequisites:		instructor:	Associate Professor John P. Forrest Jr.
course title:	Visual Basics	units:	3		

Associate Professor Forrest

office:	Mariposa Hall Room 5017	email:	john.forrest@csus.edu
phone:	916.278.4319	web site:	http://www.csus.edu/indiv/f/forrestj/
office hours:	M, W 12-12:45 p.m. T, Th 3-3:45 p.m.		

catalog description

Provides a basic understanding of how visual structures are created and interpreted. Students study the main components of visual structures, become familiar with basic laws of color, and learn the basics of the gestalt principles of visual organization.

learning objectives

- Demonstrate via daily homework and required process manual the ability to **engage** in and effectively **use** the prescribed iterative design process.
- Demonstrate via assigned projects the ability to **use** basic visual principles to **create** effective compositions that meet the prescribed goals.
- Demonstrate the ability to achieve these objectives within a prescribed process of problem definition, concept development and final comprehensive execution.
- Demonstrate via daily homework and classroom discussion the ability to **form** independent ideas, **present** and **defend** design decisions, as well as **listen** to and **act** on in a positive manner constructive critique given by the instructor and your peers.

grade distribution

composition 1	30%	94% – 100% = A
composition 2	30%	90% – 93% = A-
exercises	30%	87%– 89% = B+
final presentation	5%	84% – 86% = B
homework	5%	80% – 83% = B-

grade scale

77%– 79% = C+
74% – 76% = C
70% – 73% = C-
67%– 69% = D+
64% – 66% = D
60% – 63% = D-
0%– 59% = F

Course Policies

attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. If the student arrives late it is the students responsibility to speak with the instructor after class to ensure the proper marking of attendance. If the student does not speak to the instructor at the end of class then the record stands. Attendance is required. Your final grade will be lowered one letter grade for every non excused absence past three. Example: C will be lowered to C- for four non excused absences. Absence will only be excused for **documented** illness or emergency.

late arrivals / early departures

Excessive or persistent tardiness will effect your final grade. 6 late arrivals or early departures will count as 1 absence.

missed work

Any missed work or lecture material is the students responsibility to hand in or recover. If a meeting with the instructor is required please take care of this sooner rather than later.

participation

The student is expected to be self-motivated and a self-starter. Part of a students grade will be a reflection of his / her work ethic in, as well as out of class. Come prepared with course supplies, finished homework, and be ready to participate in class. Much of the skills learned in class come through close observation and dedicated practice while participating in lecture and activity sessions.

project deadlines / make-ups

Projects turned in past the deadline will have the final grade lowered by one full letter grade for every class period late. Example: B- will be lowered to C-. Projects will be due within the first five minutes of class unless otherwise noted.

practical precautions

Students are to take proper measures to protect their work when storing and transporting it. Put course supplies, works in progress, and finished projects in secure places. Lockers are available in the Kadema Hall breezeway. Bring a reliable lock if using these storage areas. Stolen or damaged projects will not be excused. When dealing with digital files, save early and save often. Back up all files, whether done at home or in the lab. Corrupt files and defective disks will not be excused.

withdrawal dates and procedures

Students are expected to know the university's policy on dropping classes. Drops requested beyond prescribed deadlines will require a "serious and compelling reason". Refer to the official drop policy found in the class schedule for more details.

academic dishonesty

All work must be properly cited. Cheating is unacceptable at CSUS. If cheating or plagiarism is discovered, the work in question will receive a zero in the grade record. The student will then be referred to the proper university authorities to determine if any additional action by the university must be taken.

students with special needs

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

Important Dates (subject to change)

week 1 September 2
class one No Class
class two

No Classes: Monday 9/2, Labor Day

week 2 September 9
class one
class two

week 3 September 16
class one
class two

week 4 September 23
class one
class two

week 5 September 30
class one
class two

week 6 October 7
class one
class two

week 7 October 14
class one
class two

week 8 October 21
class one
class two

week 9 October 28
class one
class two

week 10 November 4
class one
class two

week 11 November 11
class one No Class
class two
No Classes: Monday 11/11, Veteran's Day

week 12 November 18
class one
class two

week 13 November 25
class one
class two
No Classes: Thursday 11/28, Thanksgiving

week 14 December 2
class one
class two

week 15 December 9
class one
class two

finals week December 16

Required Materials

- **Camera** (digital or film as long as you can produce a high resolution quality image)
- **X-acto knife, Pack of 100 extra blades (No. 1 Precision Knife)**
- Staedtler lead holder + a variety of leads (**pencil**)
- Lead Sharpener
- **Sketchbook**
- Pad of tracing paper
- **18" Metal ruler with cork back**
- Spray mount, rubber cement or another appropriate adhesive
- Glue stick
- White artist tape
- Mars plastic eraser
- Cutting mat
- **Push pins**
- A Sharpie
- Set of Black Micron Pens
- **A method of external storage, backup and transportation of digital files.**
- Any other relevant materials you can bring to further your solution.

You will be expected to do computer and hand work outside of class.

You will be expected to turn in high quality prints and comprehensives on a regular basis. These are to be complete before the beginning of the class in which they are due.

Required + Recommended Texts

Required

TBA