

# Visual Media

JRSM 3900-002

Spring 2021

Class meetings: Virtual Instruction via Zoom, Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:25 p.m.

*Students may use Meeman 202 and 206 (on-campus computer labs) on Thursdays during the designated class meeting time. Other technology spaces will be available elsewhere on campus with longer access periods. Campus-regulated safety precautions must be followed at all times.*

**Michael Robinson, M.A.**

**Office Hours:** Virtual (via Zoom) by appointment

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Catalog description

Introduction to and application of principles of visual communication, including typography, color and organization for print and digital media using Adobe Creative Cloud. One lecture hour, four laboratory hours per week.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbooks, Software and Required Materials

Golombisky, K. & Hagen, R. (2017). *White Space Is Not Your Enemy (3rd ed.)*. Waltham, MA: Focal Press. ISBN-13: 978-1138804647.

Adobe Illustrator CC

Adobe InDesign CC

Adobe Photoshop CC

*Note: Students can purchase the Adobe Creative Cloud on a month-to-month basis from Adobe.com. Students can also access software in classroom computer labs, at the University Center Tech Hub on the UofM campus, and at [citrix.memphis.edu](http://citrix.memphis.edu).*

One Flash Drive (At least 8GB capacity) or access to external storage.

*Note: University computers are regularly erased, and lost files cannot be recovered. Saving files on university computers is not permitted.*

### Classroom format

This course is designed to stock the toolbox of a creative media professional. Students will learn techniques and the principles behind them to execute designs for work in the creative industry. Further, students will build a portfolio of work to show potential employers. A typical class session will consist of a lecture, discussion, and assignment/lab time.

Students are required to complete multiple design activities and design projects throughout the semester, as well as a final portfolio. The design activities reinforce principles of the software and teach techniques for creative work. The design projects allow students to work creatively for various applications of graphic design skills.

### Accessing the course website

1. Go to the University of Memphis eLearn home page: <http://elearn.memphis.edu>
2. Log in using your University of Memphis username and password.
3. In the Term Year course list available to you, click on the link for JRSM XXX - XXX to enter your course and read the instructions on the welcoming page

### Course Requirements

- All assignments are to be submitted electronically via eCourseware.
- Each assignment will come with unique formatting guidelines. Be sure to follow these guidelines exactly. Work that does not comply to these guidelines, as well as the production specifications for the assignment, will receive a grade of 0.
- All homework and quizzes are due at 11:59 p.m. Sunday of the week they are assigned. Late work is not accepted and may not be turned in for the revision deadline.
- Design projects may not use templates, model any existing design or use any photos the students did not shoot. Doing so is grounds for failure of the assignment. Repeated offenses will result in failure of the course, academic suspension and/or academic dismissal. The few exceptions is as a starting point for resumes and business cards and on websites for portfolios.
- Work will be critiqued in the classroom and must be suitable for presentation.
- Students are encouraged to work ahead on assignments to develop their creative processes for the work.

### Assignments

DA1: Measurements, tools, bullets, indents

DA2: Type and colors

DA3: Page design

DA4: Photo Sizing/Toning

DA5: Logo design

DA6: Chart

DA7: Animated

DA8: Pen sketch

DA9: Magazine cover

DA10: 30-second video

DP1: Movie or music poster

DP2: Photo Essay

DP3: Flyer/Ads

DP4: Infographic

DP5: Social media project

DP6: 12-page Magazine (16 pages for honors credit)

Portfolio: Website, personal logo, resume, business card

### *Honors*

Any student who would like to contract this course for honors credit must speak with the instructor before the honors deadline to complete the needed paperwork. Students contracting the course will produce a 16-page magazine for DP 6 instead of a 12-page.

### *Portfolio*

All Department of Journalism and Strategic Media undergraduate students are required to develop and maintain an active online portfolio of their work. More information about the final review of portfolios is in the Assessment section later in the syllabus. However, JRSM 3900 is a key point in the portfolio process. Students must create their portfolios and include several items from this course: 1. The personal branding developed in 3900, including logos, colors and type styles; 2. The résumé developed in 3900 as an HTML document and downloadable PDF; and 3. Design work samples created in the course, which have been revised from their original submissions. Final portfolios will be graded on these measures.

### **Grading**

Grading Philosophy: A=Professional quality work that could be use with little or no modification; B=Good to excellent work and exceeds requirement, but would require revision to be used professionally; C=Satisfactory work and adequately meets requirement, but would need significant revision; D=Barely satisfies minimum requirement and below average quality; F=Unsatisfactory work and does not meet minimum requirement.

NOTE: Plusses or minuses may be given. Students in Journalism and Strategic Media must earn a C- or better to earn credit in the course. Students completing an honors contract must earn a B or better for honors credit.

### *Grade Distribution:*

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of grade</b>
Design activities	10	15%
Design projects	6	45%
Weekly quizzes	12	15%
Final presentation	1	5%
Resume & portfolio	1	20%

A+ = 96.5-100%; A = 92.5-96.4%; A- = 89.5-92.4%  
B+ = 86.5-89.4%; B = 82.5-86.4%; B- = 79.5-82.4%  
C+ = 76.5-79.4%; C = 72.5-76.4%; C- = 69.5-72.4%  
D+ = 66.5-69.4%; D = 59.5-66.4%  
F 0-59.4%

### **Computer usage**

Students are expected to use a computer in this course. Students will use Apple computers in class, but may use Windows computers at their own discretion. Students will work with the design software standard in the professional world. At this time, the professional standard is the Adobe Creative Cloud, particularly Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign and Adobe Photoshop.

Extensive instruction about how to use these programs will be offered in this course.

### Writing style

Although this is primarily a design course, students will be required to write a minimal amount as part of their study. In these cases, students are expected to adhere to the Associated Press style guide. Additionally, in design projects, students will use text as part of their projects. Within creative reason, the text used in these projects must also follow the AP guidelines.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### *Week 1, Jan. 18 – 24: Introduction*

Class format and expectations. Using the Creative Cloud software. Basics of visual communication. Assignments: Quiz 1.

### *Week 2, Jan. 25 – 31: Design Foundations*

Mini art school. Design research. Toolbox for InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator. Measurements. Readings: WSINYE Preface, 1-2, 5. Assignments: Quiz 2, DA 1.

### *Week 3, Feb. 1 – Feb. 7: Type and Color*

Typography and CC type tools. Color and Pantone system. Setting type. Readings: WSINYE 7-8. Assignments: Quiz 3, DA 2, DP 1.

### *Week 4, Feb. 8 – 14: Photography*

Three pillars of digital photography. Rule of thirds. Lighting. Metadata. Selections. Sizing. Saving for multiple media. Color correction. Toning. Assignments: Quiz 4, DA 3.

### *Week 5, Feb. 15 – 21: Layout*

Page layout. Modular design for newspapers/newsletters. Brochure design. Dominant art. Page flow. Readings: WSINYE 3-4, 6. Assignments: Quiz 5, DA 4, DP 2.

### *Week 6, Feb. 22 – 28: Branding and Advertising*

Branding. Logos. Multiplatform applications of branding. Ad design. Readings: WSINYE 9, 14. Assignments: Quiz 6, DA 5, DP3.

### *Week 7, March 1 – March 7: Web Multimedia and Personal Branding Materials*

Personal branding. Résumés. Business cards. Colors and type for the Web. Design trends. Interactivity. Readings: WSINYE 13. Assignments: Quiz 7, personal branding materials.

*Week 8, March 8 – 14: Revision Week (University Wellness Break 3/8 – 3/9)*

Assignments: Update personal branding materials.

*Week 9, March 15 – 21: Data Visualization*

Alternative story forms. Data visualization. Infographics.

Readings: WSINYE 10.

Assignments: Quiz 8, DA 6, DP4.

*Week 10, March 22 – 28: Social Media*

Design for social media.

Readings: WSINYE 12.

Assignments: Quiz 9, DA 7.

*Week 11, March 29 – April 4: Photo Manipulation*

Effects. Layers. Masking. Removing blemishes. Changing colors. Blending effects.

Assignments: Quiz 10, DA 8, DP5.

*Week 12, April 5 – 11: Vector Graphics (University Wellness Break 4/8 – 4/9)*

Creating vector graphics in Adobe Illustrator.

Assignments: DA 9, Quiz 11.

*Week 13, April 12 – 18: Video Basics*

Lighting. Sound. Shooting video. Composition.

Readings: WSINYE 11.

Assignments: Quiz 12, DA 10

*Week 14, April 19 – 25: Magazines*

Page Design. Editorial Style.

Assignments: DP6

*Week 15, April 26 – 27: Last Week of Classes*

Assignments: Portfolio website

*Portfolio Presentations: Tuesday, May. 6, 10:30 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

## ASSESSMENT AND OUTCOMES

### Five Pillars in JRSM 3900

- *Critical Thinking:* Students must demonstrate an understanding of the audience that will consume creative work, and explain this connection in artist statements.
- *Media Literacy:* Students learn the vocabulary and tools of media production. Students learn how media is researched, planned, and created visually through multiple creative projects.
- *Multimedia:* Students prepare designed media for print, web, and digital applications.
- *Professionalism:* Students learn the professional standards and routines of the creative media industry by discussing and preparing design briefs, using the commercial printing process, and learning industry vocabulary. Finally, students design a professional brand for themselves,

including a résumé and business card.

- *Writing*: Students develop writing skills related to headlines, cutlines, copy editing, display copy, and graphics. In addition, students write a design brief and artist statements for creative work.

### **Professional values and competencies for JRSM 3900**

- Demonstrate an understanding of role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications
- Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communication
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of people and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communication in a global society
- Understanding concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity
- Think critically, creatively and independently
- Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communication professions, audiences and purposes they serve
- Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatically correctness
- Apply basic numerical and statistical concepts
- Apply current tools and technologies appropriate for the communication professions in which they work, and to understand the digital world

### **How professional values and competencies will be met**

#### *Cognitive objectives to be mastered (ability to explain, analyze, understand, think critically)*

- Acquire a technical awareness of the computer as a tool in design through class assignments, lectures and demonstrations.
- Establish a working knowledge of the theories and practices of visual communication and how they can be used to reach a range of diverse target audiences.
- Understand the basic principles of layout, design and typography.
- Familiarity with state-of-the-art developments in technology and the use of contemporary software for the design and production of specific editorial, print and collateral material.

#### *Performance standards to be met (demonstrable skills, abilities, techniques, applied competencies)*

- Ability to tone and edit photographs for print and digital production.
- Ability design for print and digital media.
- Demonstrate multiple techniques for styling typography.
- Ability to integrate photos, graphics and text into layout.

### **How assessment of student learning will be met**

#### *Awareness*

- Becoming aware of visual communications development and ethics of visual communications.

#### *Understanding*

- Process of design including the target audience, principles of design and standards of production.

### *Application*

- Creation of at least five projects, to include an advertisement, personal branding, a social media project, and a multi-page publication; to show proficiency in the Adobe Creative Cloud, specifically InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator.

## **JOURNALISM AND STRATEGIC MEDIA POLICIES**

### **Portfolio requirement**

All students in the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media are required to develop and maintain an active portfolio of their work. Undergraduate students are to begin the portfolio in JRSM 3900 and graduate students are to begin in JRSM 7002. Students are to contribute to it in every skills course thereafter. The portfolio should contain samples of the student's work from courses and/or professional experiences and should develop as the student builds skills. Portfolios will undergo a final, external review while students are enrolled in their capstone courses.

Students may use any type of web hosting for their portfolios, but it must have an independent and professional URL. Students may use any content management system, but students are encouraged to use WordPress, Wix or SquareSpace. Students are encouraged to consider purchasing a URL and hosting if they plan to use the portfolio for a long term, but they must keep the portfolio active for six months following graduation from the University of Memphis.

Students should have a professional email address they plan to use throughout their professional lives, via a common email service, such as Gmail.

All portfolios must contain the following items:

- Samples of work from courses and/or professional activities. (Example: Broadcasting students must include a video reel)
- A current résumé
- A personal profile
- Contact information/means of contact
- Social media links

Students might wish to include a blog, video reels, photograph galleries, SoundSlides presentations, design PDFs, audio files and writing pieces as examples of professional work. The professional work should ultimately be tailored to the career the student seeks after graduation. Thus, each student's portfolio should show a unique blend of work.

### **Email**

Students must have their UofM email accounts activated. Students using another provider, such as Google, are required to have all UofM email forwarded to that account. Students should go to the <http://iam.memphis.edu> website to implement forwarding of UofM email. Students are required to check their email daily. They are responsible for complying with any email sent to by professors or others in the University.

### **Electronic devices**

Some classes require a tablet, laptop or a smartphone. Others do not. Instructors will set the policy for

their specific classes.

### **Attendance**

Class attendance is mandatory in Journalism and Strategic Media. Students may be assigned a failing grade for the semester for nonattendance or habitual late arrival. No late work will be accepted without prior arrangements with the class professor. Students may not be permitted to make up any missing work unless it is for an absence because of illness or other catastrophic emergency, such as a death in the family that can be documented (e.g. with a doctor's note or a copy of the newspaper obituary).

Journalism and Strategic Media is a professional program, and students are expected to understand and comply with deadlines. Students who have some problem making it to class on time should make arrangements to correct the problem or consider taking another class. Students should consider this class as a "job" in the educational process and be on time just as they would elsewhere.

### **Course repetition**

Majors and minors who fail to earn the minimum passing grade ("C-") in a class required by their program of study in Journalism and Strategic Media more than three times will be dropped from the program.

Students may not use or submit work from a previous course, even if it is the same course being repeated, to fulfill requirements for assignments in another course. If students wish to substantially rework the original submission, or to work with the same general idea, that may be permissible upon discussion with and written approval from the professor of the current course. All written work will be checked for policy adherence via TurnItIn.com. All creative work will be checked for policy adherence by the professor, and judged against previous submissions. The only exception to this policy is the student's online portfolio and its attendant pieces (for example, the résumé and logo).

### **Academic integrity**

In addition to University-wide policies stated in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media considers making up quotes from sources, turning in substantially the same assignment for credit in two different courses or students receiving any assistance from others for work assigned to be done on their own, as acts of cheating punishable to the degree determined appropriate by the course instructor and department chair. Punishment may include grade reductions or seeking dismissal of the student from the University.

Further, as this is a journalism and strategic media class, students are expected to comply with copyright law and must have sufficient permission to use any copyrighted materials used in creative projects, unless otherwise informed in cases of exercises or reproduction.

Your written work may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar electronic detection method, for rating originality of your ideas. Also to evaluate proper use and assignment of sources. As part of this process, you may require to submit electronic as well as hard copies of your work. Other instructions to follow may also be given. By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may undergo this review process. The assignment may be included as a source document in Turnitin.com's restricted access database. It is solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Assignments not submitted according to the instructor's procedures may be penalized or may not be accepted at all. (*Office of Legal Counsel, October 11, 2018*)



## Online SETEs

Students are urged to complete the SETEs evaluation of this course. Once the instructor has posted grades, student can immediately see that grade, provided they have completed a the SETE for that class. To access evaluation forms, students should log in to MyMemphis using their UUIDs and email passwords; click on the gray “Student” tab; complete an evaluation for each course listed and hit the “Submit” button at the bottom of the form. Completing the SETE will only take a few minutes. Faculty take the evaluations very seriously and use them to improve courses and instructional quality. Student feedback is essential and is appreciated.

## Deadlines

All deadlines are firm. This is journalism and strategic media. Students needing an extension on an assignment must receive approval from the instructor. Exceptions will be made for reasonable circumstances if the student notifies the instructor prior to the due date.

## AP Style and grammar

All written work in this class must follow the AP Stylebook and accepted rules of grammar and punctuation. Students are responsible for learning these rules and checking their work for errors.

## Disability and accommodations

Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office for Disability Resources for Students at 901-678-2880 in 110 Wilder Tower Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

## Diversity and inclusivity

Students are required to respect the differences of others and treat all persons with respect. Discriminatory, derogatory and threatening language or behavior will not be tolerated. Further, students are expected to consider their work through a diverse mind. Media reach a mass audience, and students should be aware of how those messages are received by a diverse audience.

## Weather policy

Always check with local media and the University of Memphis website regarding inclement weather. If the University is closed or classes are canceled, this course will not meet. However, students will still be responsible for that day’s work.

## Student support

Student who are experiencing personal or academic challenges including, but not limited to food or housing issues, family needs, or other stressors, should visit the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach & Support page to learn about resources that can help: <https://www.memphis.edu/saos/sos/crisis-resources.php>. Any student who faces personal challenges including, but not limited to securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach & Support (901-678-2187) located in the University Center, Suite 359 for assistance. Students may also talk with course instructors about the challenges they are experiencing. Instructors may be able to assist in connecting with campus or community support.

## COVID-19 protocols for this course

### COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy - Masks and Social Distancing

All students, faculty and staff will wear masks in all public spaces, including our classroom (lab) per the COVID-19 policy. The first time a student enters a classroom without wearing a face covering, the student will be asked to leave the class until they return a covering. Further violations will be referred to the Office of Student Accountability. Students who repeatedly or flagrantly violate these community expectations may be referred for discipline under the Student Code and, if appropriate, immediately removed from campus by the Dean of Students.

### Student Health

Students who are experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing or a higher than normal temperature should inform me by email so they can be excused from class and should stay home. Students should contact their health care provider or the Student Health Center at <https://www.memphis.edu/health/>.

Students who have a positive COVID-19 test should contact the Dean of Students at [deanofstudents@memphis.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@memphis.edu).

### Student Accommodations

If and when we return to class, students seeking to remain remote for health or other serious reasons should discuss their options with me. Students with accessibility issues or with other learning accommodation needs due to a disability should contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) to submit an official request for course accommodations. Contact DRS at 901.678.2880 or at [drs@memphis.edu](mailto:drs@memphis.edu). (<https://www.memphis.edu/drs/index.php>)

### Student Resources

Students who need additional resources can contact the Dean of Students Office at <https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/index.php>.

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### **Guidelines for classes, labs and equipment in Meeman Journalism Building in Spring 2021**

- Anyone feeling sick should stay home and join class virtually.
- Social distance from all others at least 6 feet.
- Wear a mask at all times when in University buildings and on campus.
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer regularly.
- No more than one person in the elevator at a time.
- Disinfect your workstation before and after use, including desks, keyboards, mice and screens. Wash your hands after cleaning.
- Have phone or Zoom meetings with professors and classmates. Do not meet face to face, if possible.