

# Graphics for Strategic Media

JRSM 3905

Spring 2022

Online

## Professor Taylor Nicole Ackerman

Preferred Pronouns: She/Her

**Office:** Meeman Journalism Building Room 332

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 2:30pm - 3:30pm  
Wednesdays, 10am - 12pm; 1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Thursdays, 10:00am - 11:00 am

If you'd like to meet for my office hours listed or at any other time, please reach out via email or text prior to dropping by so I can make sure I'm in my office. I'm also available via Zoom outside of office hours. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Email:** [tckerman@memphis.edu](mailto:tckerman@memphis.edu)

**Phone:** 731-225-7656 Text only please :)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Catalog description

Practices of development of social media graphics, flyers, brochures and other collateral materials using Adobe Spark, Canva and other Web-based tools.

### 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

### Supplementary Materials

Access to Canva: <https://www.canva.com/education/>

Access to Adobe Spark: <https://spark.adobe.com/sp/>

### Classroom Format

This course is delivered online in an asynchronous format. In other words, there is no required scheduled meeting time for this course. This can be convenient for students juggling several responsibilities, but it also means you must be organized and motivated. Students are able to work at their own pace throughout the week, however work will be due on a weekly basis and it is imperative to stay on track with the course schedule to complete all deadlines on time.

All course discussions should remain respectful and professional, and show respect to all people regardless of background, sex, race, or any other factor. Hate speech will not be tolerated in any form and could result in being dropped from the class for misconduct. Since this is a skills based class that requires creativity and out-of-the-box thinking, it's important we build an online environment that builds one another up and is encouraging so that everyone can produce their best work. When participating in discussions or any kind of class-related activity, it's important to remain positive. It's okay to be constructive if in the right setting, but make sure you always pair it with a positive comment. (Think compliment sandwich: Compliment, politely constructive comment or recommendation, positive statement.) Be gentle with yourselves, as well - perfection usually doesn't come on the first try, and that's okay.

This course is designed to teach the foundational skills for creativity for strategic media. Students will explore web-based tools for developing basic graphics for print and social media. Students are required to complete multiple activities and 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 design skills.

Students will upload all required assignments to Canvas, and feedback will be given to encourage student improvement. Access to a computer or an electronic device will be required. Each assignment will have unique formatting guidelines. Be sure to follow these guidelines exactly, as assignments that do not meet appropriate criteria will be given a grade of 0.

All homework and quizzes are due at 11:59 p.m. Sunday night the week they are assigned. Students are encouraged to work ahead on assignments to develop creative processes and leave time for revision and proofing. To allow time for response and clarification, please reach out with any assignment questions at least 48 hours prior to the deadline.

In order to succeed in this course, it's imperative to stay engaged in all coursework. If at any point you are concerned about your grade or struggling to grasp course concepts, I encourage you to make an appointment for a Zoom call during my office hours so we can work to find a good solution. Remember that in order for me to help you, communication is key.

**Meeman Lab Availability:** Open labs 9:30-4:30 Monday-Friday. Masks and social distancing required. In addition to Meeman, labs are available in the Tech Hub and the Library.

For students that may not have access to a computer, the McWherter Library has laptops on loan. Please visit the Checkout desk in the library or visit:  
<https://www.memphis.edu/libraries/technology/laptop.php>

### Accessing the course website

1. Go to the University of Memphis Canvas home page: <https://memphis.instructure.com/>
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 3905 M50 to enter the course and read the instructions on the welcoming page

### Students with disabilities & accommodations

If you will need accommodations through [Disability Resources](#) to meet any of the requirements

of this course, please let me know as soon as possible. I'm happy to work with you to make sure you are able to be successful in this course. Remember, this is not a reflection on your ability nor is it giving special treatment, but rather making sure you are equipped to do your best in this course.

If at any point in the semester you are struggling with the course load or a specific assignment, please reach out to me for a meeting so we can work to get you back on track. I'm happy to help in any way I'm able, but you must be an advocate for yourself. It's impossible for me to help if I don't know there's a problem.

### Trauma & Emotional Needs

I understand that outside of this course, you have many things going on that could add stress or take away attention from your school work. This course should be taken seriously, but I am happy to work with you to make sure that you stay healthy, well, and in the right mindset to do your best work. I've been a student also, and understand the challenges of balancing academics with work, family, and life. Please let me know if completing a requirement for the course is challenging or if something comes up throughout the semester that is hindering your success with this course. I care about what is going on with you and I'm happy to help where I can. My door (and Zoom room) is always open to you.

I also recommend taking advantage of the free counseling services offered by the University of Memphis. Please see below for links that could be helpful for you.

**Campus and Community Resources:** <https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/>

### Resources specific to physical health and wellness:

[Mental health Services](#)

[UofM Student Health Center](#)

[Sexual, domestic, and intimate partner violence resources](#)

### If you are affected financially because of COVID-19:

There are many resources available through the Dean of Students including:

[Dr. Rosie Phillips Bingham Student Emergency Fund](#)

[Emergency Food Resources](#), which includes [Tiger Pantry](#)

### Academic Services:

[Writing Center](#)

[Tutoring](#)

### Communities & Inclusion:

[Multicultural Affairs](#)

[LGBTQ+](#)

### Course and Assignment Expectations

Course work will be accomplished every week, including readings, discussion posts, assignments and quizzes to check your learning and comprehension. Each assignment must be completed by its due date and time (Central Time), which may vary by assignment, so make sure to check each individual due date and time to ensure that you post by the deadline.

## Quality of Work

All work in this course should follow AP Style, including proper spelling, grammar, and language. A large part of public relations is having a polished written concept of what you are communicating. This includes all class work and presentations. Problems in these or other areas will result in the deduction of points.

I expect your work to be good and to be original, meaning it's yours. If you quote anything or get information from any other source, it should be fully cited. If you need help with writing and citing sources, please see me for resources. In addition, Purdue University's Online Writing Lab is an excellent resource, and can be found at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>. Additionally, there are some instructional materials located in eCourseware under the "resources" tab.

Assignments must be turned in on-time to receive proper credit.

## Repetition of Courses and Coursework

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 resume and logo).

## Questions about Grades

If you would like to ask about a grade, please make an appointment to meet with me outside of class time, as I will not discuss grades via email or in online discussions.

Additionally, you are responsible for tracking your grade online and meeting with me early in the semester if you are concerned about your overall grade. Meeting early and often can help both parties involved find ways to improve student-instructor understanding and quality of work.

## Plagiarism policy

*First offense:* Redo for 50%, warning

*Second offense:* Automatic 0, no redo

*Third offense:* Automatic class fail

*Final assignment, regardless of which offense:* Automatic 0 on assignment

\*\*Any instances of plagiarism may result in a note being added to your department file.

## Grading

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

### **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 requirements

### **Individual Assignments**

Graphics Activities (Total of 10)	<b>20% of grade</b>
Graphics Projects (Total of 4)	<b>35% of grade</b>
Weekly Quizzes (Total of 13)	<b>15% of grade</b>
Final Project	<b>15% of grade</b>
Resume & Portfolio	<b>15% of grade</b>

**There will be a few opportunities for extra credit. Pay attention to weekly news items for more information.**

### **Honors Component**

If you are taking this class as an honors class, you will need to fulfill the honors project requirement. For the honors project requirement, you will expand on the final project requirement for this class with additional requirements. To discuss the honors requirements, please set up a Zoom meeting with me.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

This is a basic weekly schedule for topics and major assignments over the course of the semester. Although every effort will be made to stick with this schedule, please understand that changes to the schedule may occur. All changes will be announced as soon as possible. All assignments are due on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. C.T. unless otherwise noted.

*Week 1, January 17-23: Basics of Visual Communication*

Readings: Chapter 1; Complete Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 1

*Week 2, January 24-30: Design Foundations*

Readings: Chapters 2 & 5; Completed Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 2

GA 1

*Week 3, January 31 - February 6: Type & Color*

Readings: Chapters 7 & 8; Complete Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 3

GA 2

GP 1

*Week 4, February 7-13: Photography*

Readings: Chapter 9; Complete Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 4

GA 3

*Week 5, February 14-20: Layout*

Readings: Chapters 3, 4 & 6; Complete Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 5

GA 4

GP 2

*Week 6, February 21-27: Branding & Advertising*

Readings: Chapters 9 & 14; Complete Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 6

GA 5

GP 3

*Week 7, February 28 - March 6: Personal Branding & Portfolios*

Readings: Complete Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 7

Business Card

Resume

*Week 8, March 7-13: Spring Break*

Enjoy Spring Break and treat yourself to some self-care to get you through the other half of this semester - you're almost there!

*Week 9, March 14-20: Websites*

Readings: Chapter 13, Complete Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 8

Portfolio

*Week 10, March 21-27: Data Visualization*

Readings: Chapter 10, Complete Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 9

GA 6

GP 4

*Week 11, March 28 - April 3: Social Media*

Readings: Complete Required Materials on Canvas

Assignments: Quiz 10  
GA 7

*Week 12, April 4-10: Photo Editing*

Readings: Complete Required Materials on Canvas  
Assignments: Quiz 11  
GA 8

*Week 13, April 11-17: Vector Graphics*

Readings: Complete Required Materials on Canvas  
Assignments: Quiz 12  
GA 9

*Week 14, April 18-24: Videos*

Readings: Chapter 111, complete Required Materials on Canvas  
Assignments: Quiz 13  
GA 10

*Week 15, April 25-27: Course Wrap Up & Final*

Readings: None  
Assignments: Complete all three components of final project  
Complete revisions of portfolio

## Syllabus Changes

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes by posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

## 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

Students 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

Faculty, staff, students and visitors are expected to monitor current health and safety measure requirements posted to our website and shared through other official communication channels including, but not limited to University email. Definitions related to those requirements and enforcement mechanisms appear in the [COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy \(GE2040\)](#). **Please be reminded that the University currently requires that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks indoors and in places where appropriate social distancing is not possible.**

Classroom experiences from recent semesters have shown that the campus community generally understands and complies voluntarily with the mask requirement. The policy does permit faculty members to take action for non-compliance of mask use. Additionally, if students have concerns about faculty or staff mask use, contact Human Resources at [hr@memphis.edu](mailto:hr@memphis.edu) or 901.678.3573. Faculty who are delivering on-campus instruction may remove their face mask to teach, provided they are located within a delineated teaching area that is no less than 6 feet from 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) or 901.678.2187.

### **Testing & Notification**

The University will continue to provide testing for the entire campus community. The details regarding test availability and locations can be found [here](#). Do not come to campus if you are experiencing symptoms, are in isolation or quarantine due to positive test results or exposure, pending test results, or have reason to believe you have come in contact with the virus.

### **Student Resources**

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

### **Guidelines for classes, labs and equipment in Meeman Journalism Building in Spring 2022**

- Anyone feeling sick should stay home.
- Social distance from all others at least 6 feet when possible.
- Wear a mask at all times when in University buildings and outside when social distancing isn't possible.
- 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.
- Air purifiers must run at all times during class meetings.