

Graphics for Strategic Media

JRSM 3905-001

Spring 2025

T/TH 9:40 – 11:05 a.m., MJ206

Dr. Jin Yang

Office: Meeman 310

Office hours: M. T. W.TH: 12:30 -2:30 p.m.

Email: jinyang@memphis.edu

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Catalog description

Practices of development of social media graphics, flyers, brochures and other collateral materials using Canva, Adobe Express (formerly called Adobe Spark, but this is optional), 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.

Canva - primary software used for class

Adobe Express (optional)

Adobe Photoshop CC (optional)

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.

Note: University computers are regularly erased, and lost files cannot be recovered. Please be sure to always save your files on your own USB device and/or digitally. Saving files on university computers is not permitted.

Classroom format

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 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 UofM online learning 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 3905-001 to enter your course and read the instructions on the welcoming page

Course Requirements

- All assignments are to be submitted electronically via Canvas.
- 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. Please see below for a late work policy.
- 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 are as a starting point for resumes and business cards and on websites for portfolios.
- Work will be critiqued and presented sometime throughout the semester.
- Students are encouraged to work ahead on assignments to develop their creative processes for the work.

Assignments

GA1: Designing for Facebook

GA2: Designing for Twitter

GA3: Designing for Instagram

GA4: Snapchat Filters

GA5: Logo design

GA6: Social Media Chart

GA7: Social Media Brand Pack

GA8: Photo Collage

GA9: Logo Brand Pack

GA10: 60-second video

GP1: Event Flyer/Poster

GP2: Brochure

GP3: Print Ad

GP4: Infographic

Final: 3-Part Branding project (Social Media, Print & Video)

Portfolio Projects

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 larger project for the final project.

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 3905 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 3905, including logos, colors and type styles; 2. The résumé developed in 3905 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: 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:

Assignment	Number	Percent of grade
Graphics Activities	11	20%
Graphics Projects	4	30%
Weekly Quizzes	13	15%
Final Project	1	15%
Resume & Portfolio	1	15%
Attendance	24	5%

A = 90% to 100%

B = 80% to 89%

C= 79% to 70%

D= 69% to 60%

F = 0-59%

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.

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, January 21-24: Basics of Visual Communication

Readings: WSINYE 1.

Assignments: Quiz 1, Final Project Topic Pitch, Introduction Graphic.

Week 2, January 27-January 31 : Design Foundations

Readings: WSINYE 2, 5.

Assignments: Quiz 2, GA 1, Share Introduction Graphic with Class.

Week 3, February 3-February 7: Type and Color

Readings: WSINYE 7-8.

Assignments: Quiz 3, GA 2, GP 1.

Week 4, February 10-14: Photography

Assignments: Quiz 4, GA 3.

Week 5, February 17-21: Layout

Readings: WSINYE 3-4, 6.

Assignments: Quiz 5, GA 4, GP 2.

Week 6, February 24-28: Branding and Advertising

Readings: WSINYE 9, 14.

Assignments: Quiz 6, GA 5, GP 3.

Week 7, March 3-7: Personal branding and Websites

Assignments: Quiz 7, Resume, Business card.

Week 8, March 10-14: Spring Break

Week 9, March 17-21: Websites

Readings: WSINYE 13.

Assignments: Quiz 8, Portfolio site.

Week 10, March 24-28: Data visualization

Readings: WSINYE 10.

Assignments: Quiz 9, GA 6, GP 4.

Week 11, March 31-April 4: Social media

Readings: WSINYE 12.

Assignments: Quiz 10, GA 7. Final Project Social Media Part

Week 12, April 7-11: Photo editing tools

Assignments: Quiz 11, GA 8.

Week 13, April 14-18: Vector graphics

Assignments: Quiz 12, GA 9, Final Project Print Ad Part

Week 14, April 21-25: Video

Readings: WSINYE 11.

Assignments: Quiz 13, GA 10, Final Project Video Part

Week 15: April 28-29: Final Project

Assignments: Final project Polishing

The Presentation of Portfolio is on Tuesday April 29

Last Day of Class – April 30 Wednesday (no class)

Study day – May 1 (Thursday)

JOURNALISM AND STRATEGIC MEDIA POLICIES

Portfolio requirement

As an undergraduate student in the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media, you are required to develop and maintain an active portfolio of your work. Portfolios begin in JRSM 3900/3905. The portfolio should contain samples of coursework and/or professional experiences and should develop as you build skills. Portfolios will undergo a final, external review while you are enrolled in your capstone course.

You may use any type of web hosting for your portfolio, but it must have an independent and professional URL. You may use any content management system, but you are encouraged to use WordPress, Wix, or Squarespace. It is also encouraged to purchase a URL if you plan to use the portfolio long term. You must keep the portfolio active for six months following graduation from the University of Memphis.

You should have a professional email address you plan to use throughout your professional life, 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

Professional social media links (minimum LinkedIn)

You may wish to include a blog, video reels, photograph galleries, presentations, design PDFs, audio files or writing pieces as examples of professional work. The professional work should ultimately be tailored to the career you seek after graduation. Your portfolio should show a unique blend of work.

Email

You must have your UofM email account activated. If you are using another provider, such as Google, you are required to have all UofM emails forwarded to that account. Go to the [account management website](#) for information about implementing email forwarding. You are required to check your email daily.

Electronic devices

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

AI/Chat GPT

The use of artificial intelligence software, such as Chat GPT, is prohibited in some courses and required in others in Journalism & Strategic Media. Please refer to specific guidelines for this course in the course-specific part of the syllabus.

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory in Journalism & Strategic Media. You may be assigned a failing grade for the semester for nonattendance or habitual tardiness.

Course repetition

Majors and minors who fail to earn the minimum passing grade (C-) in a class required by your program of study in Journalism & Strategic Media after three attempts will be dropped from the program.

You 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. Substantially reworking the original submission, or working with the same general idea, may be permissible upon discussion and with written approval from the professor of the current course.

Academic integrity

The University of Memphis expects all students to behave honestly and follow the policies stated in the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities. If you need more information about the University policy on academic integrity visit the [Office of Student Accountability's website](#).

In addition to University-wide policies, the Department of Journalism & Strategic Media considers making up quotes from sources, turning in substantially the same assignment for credit in two different courses or receiving any assistance from others for work assigned to be done on your own, as acts of cheating and 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, you are expected to comply with copyright and intellectual property laws 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 and to evaluate proper use and assignment of sources. All creative work may be checked for policy adherence by the professor. The only exception to this policy is your online portfolio and its attendant pieces (for example, the résumé and logo). 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.

Online SETEs

You are encouraged to complete the SETEs evaluation of this course. If completed, once the instructor has posted final grades, you can immediately see that grade. To access evaluation forms, log in to MyMemphis; click the "Student Pages" dropdown menu and select "My Resources" and find the SETE evaluation forms; 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 seriously and use them to improve courses and instructional quality. Your feedback is essential and is appreciated.

Deadlines

All deadlines are firm. Because Journalism & Strategic Media is a professional program, students are expected to understand and comply with deadlines. 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.

You may be permitted to make up missing work if it is for an absence because of illness or other catastrophic emergency, such as a death in the family that can be documented.

AP Style and grammar

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

Disability and accommodations

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact Disability Resources for Students at 901-678-2880 in 110 Wilder Tower Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Diversity and inclusivity

The Department of Journalism & Strategic Media values diversity in all its forms. Some of these forms include ability, age, appearance, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, language, nationality, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexuality, socio-economic status, and other personal identities and experiences. As such, students are expected to participate in fostering an inclusive environment that respects the differences of others.

Students are expected to approach their work through a diverse lens. Creating messages that resonate with diverse audiences requires an understanding of a variety of perspectives, which are carried out through multiple platforms, such as digital and traditional media outlets.

The department seeks to foster healthy and positive classroom discussions and experiences. As such, faculty and students are expected to remain respectful and professional at all times.

Weather policy

Always check with local media, the University of Memphis website regarding inclement weather.

Student support

If you are experiencing personal or academic challenges including, but not limited to food or housing issues, family needs, or other stressors, visit the Student Outreach & Support page to learn about resources that can help: <https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/index.php> or contact the Dean of Students Office at 901-678-2187, or in person in Suite 359 in the University Center for assistance. You may also talk with course instructors about the challenges you are experiencing. Instructors may be able to assist in connecting you with campus or community support.