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**Trends in Contemporary Graphic Design**  
**GD 221**

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Section 401  
TH: 10:00am—1:15pm  
DePaul Center c106c

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Office hours:  
M: 10:00am—11:30am  
TH: 2:15pm—3:45pm

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**Course Description**

Trends in Contemporary Graphic Design examines the current practice of graphic design in print, digital, and experimental design, both in the United States and abroad. The most cutting edge design, designers, movements, as well as issues affecting the contemporary design field will be examined. Topics covered will focus on the evolution of the field in design theory, aesthetics, technology, and communication methods in the context of changing social, political and cultural climates, and audiences. This course may include lectures, videos, guest speakers, field trips, independent research, and in-class discussion.

**NOTE:** This is not a “history of graphic design” course. Although it will touch on historical context in relation to a trend or current topic.

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**Objectives**

This course has the following three learning objectives:

1. Develop your ability to critically partake in the discourse of graphic design
2. Acquire an in-depth knowledge of the forces at work that are shaping the design discipline
3. Understand current topics and issues of debate within the field of graphic design

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**Class Period**

Each class will cover specific topics related to contemporary graphic design. Each week reading and/or research will be assigned and should be completed prior to arrival at the following class meeting. These assignments will be related to the lecture in the corresponding class. At any time you may be required to present your reading assignment or research to the class. Although class time will primarily be used as lecture, there will be group discussions, and small group discussions, related to the reading assignments, current trends, or related to a guest lecturer.

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**Assignments & Projects**

Graded assignments for this course will be:

1. Reading assignments
2. In-classes tests (2)
3. Midterm paper
4. Final paper and presentation

**Required Text books****Graphic Design Theory: Readings from the Field**

by Helen Armstrong  
(Amazon: \$18.35 new, \$13.85 used)

**Graphic Design: Now In Production**

by Ian Albinson, Rob Giampietro, Andrew Blauvelt, Ellen Lupton  
(Amazon: \$29.17 new, \$17.95 used)

**Attendance****Attendance is mandatory.**

Attendance will be called at the beginning of each class session. You are allowed a maximum of two absences throughout the quarter. If your absences exceed the maximum of two allotted, penalties will be applied to your final grade for the quarter. A third absence will result in a full letter-grade reduction of your final grade for the quarter. Additional absences will result in a 10% reduction per instance.

Tardiness is defined as not being present in the classroom when attendance is called. Tardiness that exceeds 20 minutes will be counted as an absence. Three late arrivals, early departures or a combination of both are counted as a single absence. Students are responsible for reporting to the teacher at the end of class if they missed roll call but were present for most of the class.

If you are absent you are fully responsible for doing the best you can to catch up. Questions or concerns may be emailed to the instructor, or may be addressed in person during office hours. Lectures will not be repeated.

**Late assignments**

Assignments and projects turned in late will result in a full letter-grade reduction for every day past the assigned due date (in addition to being graded based upon defined criteria). Projects and assignments are due at the beginning of class.

There will be no extensions or leniency regardless of excuse.

**Grading**

Grades for this course will be based on:

- 1. In-class preparation, participation, and attendance.**
- 2. Tests**
- 3. Midterm paper**
- 4. Final paper and presentation**

<b>A</b>	100—93	<b>C+</b>	79—78	<b>F</b>	59—0
<b>A-</b>	92—90	<b>C</b>	77—73		
		<b>C-</b>	72—70		
<b>B+</b>	89—88				
<b>B</b>	87—83	<b>D+</b>	69—68		
<b>B-</b>	82—80	<b>D</b>	67—63		
		<b>D-</b>	62—60		

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**Academic Integrity**

Work done for this course must adhere to the DePaul University Academic Integrity Policy, which can be reviewed in the Student Handbook or by visiting:  
<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>

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**Changes to Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted on D2L and sent via email.

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**Course Evaluations**

Instructor and course evaluations provide valuable feedback that can improve teaching and learning. The greater the level of participation, the more useful the results. As students, you are in the unique position to view the instructor over time. Your comments about what works and what doesn't can help faculty build on the elements of the course that are strong and improve those that are weak. Isolated comments from students and instructors' peers may also be helpful, but evaluation results based on high response rates may be statistically reliable (believable). As you experience this course and material, think about how your learning is impacted. Your honest opinions about your experience in and commitment to the course and your learning may help improve some components of the course for the next group of students. Positive comments also show the department chairs and college deans the commitment of instructors to the university and teaching evaluation results are one component used in annual performance reviews (including salary raises and promotion/tenure). The evaluation of the instructor and course provides you an opportunity to make your voice heard on an important issue— the quality of teaching at DePaul.

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**Withdraw**

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connect <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>. Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

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**Incomplete grade**

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. CDM policy requires the student to initiate the request for incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in MyCDM.

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**Attitude**

A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

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**Civil discourse**

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be Socially Responsible Leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

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**Cell phone, Computers, Tablets and Headphones**

The use of cell phones, tablets and gaming devices is strictly prohibited. The use of laptops and computers is also prohibited during lectures unless otherwise instructed.

Turn off your phone before entering class. The unauthorized use of a digital media device in class will result in a warning, the following use will result in a full letter-grade reduction of your class grade. If you are expecting a call of importance, please see the professor.

Headphones are not permitted. Come on.

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**Plagiarism**

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

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**Resources for Students with Disabilities**

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at:

Student Center, LPC, Suite #370  
Phone number: (773) 325.1677  
Fax: (773) 325.3720  
TTY: (773) 325.7296

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**Email policy**

The professor will respond to email received from students to the best of his ability, although there is no guarantee that this will be done swiftly and with regularity. There is no guarantee that all email received will be responded to. Email received on Saturdays and Sundays will not be reviewed until the following Monday. The best way to ensure response for feedback is to visit during specified office hours during the week.

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**Turning in Assignments**

All course-related documents and assignments will be posted to the DePaul D2L site. Unless instructed otherwise, all assigned work must be completed and submitted through the D2L system on the date and time specified under each assignment posting. (See “Late Assignment Policy” below for information on late submissions.)

Depending on the assignment, your project files will most likely be PDFs or Word Docs. If presentations or design-centric solutions result in large files sizes, you may have problems uploading to the D2L system. If a file fails to upload, you may need to create a smaller file and attempt a re-upload. You may also try compressing the file in a .zip format. To make sure a file successfully uploaded, you may want to download it to your computer and re-open it after posting. If this results in success, you’ll know it uploaded correctly in the first place!

If all else fails, you can use [dropbox.com](https://www.dropbox.com), a free file storage website. This service is particularly handy for larger files. Once an account is created, you can upload your files and grant me access to that particular folder or file. You must let me know at least one class ahead of time if this is the route you’re going to take.

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**Class Schedule**

Class schedule will be handed out as separate document and is subject to change based upon the evolution of the class.