

DMA 698: THESIS II

INSTRUCTOR

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Office hours: Email for appointment.

COURSE INFORMATION

DMA 698 - 901 - #34768

Class times: Wednesday, 5:45-9:00

Location: 14 E. Jackson, 207 - Loop Campus

Course homepage: <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>

Slack: dmathesis2018.slack.com

Last day to drop the course: April 6, 2018

Last day to withdraw: May 11, 2018

COURSE SUMMARY

The thesis courses provide an opportunity for students to apply the skills they have learned to a professionally developed project of their interest. The project will be accompanied by a written analysis of the concept and documentation of the process. Students have the choice to work individually or in small teams. In Thesis II, students will work in a studio format to refine the concept developed in Thesis I. Concept development will consist of on-going analysis and critique of the concept through user/audience testing to result in creation of a professional quality digital media piece or high-fidelity prototype. Students will have regular presentations to prepare them to defend their final thesis project before a panel of faculty and industry professionals. PREREQUISITE(S): DMA 695

CLASS FORMAT

This course is a mixture of studio, workshops and critique. Each student will work independently to complete their own unique thesis project. Outside critics and designers will work with students during class time to refine their projects.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- None. Articles and links will be provided.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand and effectively explain how digital technology has affected communication practices across a range of subjects and disciplines.
- Identify and appraise the underlying ethical issues that the advent of digital technology has brought to contemporary society.
- Demonstrate varied research methods and design thinking to develop new and relevant digital media products that address contemporary problems.
- Students will be able to identify and employ the affordances of digital media components in order to effectively develop a story or campaign across multiple media formats.

- Demonstrate key competencies and production skills in still or moving image production, audio production, graphic or interactive design, or other technologies related to digital media arts.
- Develop professional-level project pitches and research presentations.

DMA 698 EVALUATION & GRADING

Coursework includes the following components.

	Grade Proportion
Individual:	
Weekly Progress Post (Slack)	10%
Thesis Committee Meetings (min 2)	5%
Feedback Panel	10%
Final Pitch/Thesis Defense	25%
Final Exhibition	25%
Final Deliverable Package	25%

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be given based on the following minimum percent of total points earned.

A	93.00%	Excellent/Outstanding effort
A-	90.00%	Very Good
B+	88.00%	
B	83.00%	Good
B-	80.00%	
C+	78.00%	
C	73.00%	Satisfactory
C-	70.00%	
D+	68.00%	
D	60.00%	
F	0.00%	

Weekly Progress Post. Students should make a weekly post on Slack in their personal channel about the progress they've made on their project. Posts could be a typed update, a question, screenshots and description, etc. Each student can miss one Weekly Post without affecting their grade.

Thesis Committee Meeting. Students should choose at least one focus advisor, in addition to B and/or LeAnne, to be on your thesis committee. This person can be a DePaul faculty member or someone from the greater Chicago creative community. You should have a minimum of two and a maximum of three advisors on your committee. You need to meet with your focus advisor at least twice during this quarter. After meeting with your advisor, create a short summary of what was discussed and post to your Slack channel.

Thesis Defense. You will present and defend your project before a panel of faculty and industry professionals at the end of the term. Upon a successful presentation and defense of your project,

your thesis advisors will sign the Thesis Defense Form. You may be required to make some adjustments to your project in order to proceed to the final step of the process: a public exhibition of your work.

Final Exhibition. An exhibition of all successful thesis projects will be organized, and your project must be included in order for you to receive a final grade for Thesis II. Exhibition will be held June 8th or 9th.

Final Deliverable Package. The final package includes the research and documentation of the development process. Ideally, you will be documenting your project throughout, so this final step will be merely compiling your research and documentation into a presentable format. In addition to the documentation, a reflection paper that summarizes your process and experience should also be included. The reflection should be a narrative overview of your process, approximately 4-5 pages.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Assignments must be submitted midnight on the due date indicated below, unless announced otherwise. All assignments should be submitted to D2L. Readings should be completed by the date listed.

1 Mar 28	Topics:	Due today:	Read for next week:
	Prototype share Timeline review		
2 Apr 4	Topics:	Due today:	Read for next week:
	Workshop (with classmates) Studio time	Slack Post (before class starts)	
3 Apr 11	Topics:	Due today:	Read for next week:
	Guest Workshop #1	Slack Post Preparation for workshop	
4 Apr 18	Topics:	Due today:	Read for next week:
	Speaker on legal issues Studio time	Slack Post	
5 Apr 25	Topics:	Due today:	Read for next week:
	Guest Workshop #2	Slack Post Preparation for workshop	
6 May 2	Topics:	Due today:	Read for next week:
	Feedback Panel	Project Pitch/Presentation Slack Post	
7 May 9	Topics:	Due today:	Read for next week:
	Future planning speaker Studio time	Slack Post	
8 May 16	Topics:	Due today:	Read for next week:
	Studio time	Slack Post	

9 May 23	Topics:	Due today:	Read for next week:
	Share final show concepts	Show concepts Slack Post	—

10 May 30	Topics:	Due today:	
	Studio time	Slack Post	

11 June 6	Topics:	Due today:	
	Final Pitch/Thesis Defense	Project Pitch/Presentation	—

June 8 or 9	Topics:	Due today:	
Set up will be the day before	Final Exhibition	Project Exhibition Materials	—

June 12	Topics:	Due today:	
		Final Deliverable Package	—

POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

Guidelines for Class Behavior

- Be professional. Treat this class like a job.
- Be respectful towards others. Listen when others talk and share ideas.
- Attend every class. (Communicate with me if you must miss class for any reason, you wouldn't just fail to show up to a job.)
- Arrive on time to every class. Important information is communicated at the very beginning of class.
- Food and drink during class is ok.
- Keep your phones in silent mode, in your bag or pocket, and no texting in class. If you have a need to be available by phone (sick relative, etc.), please let me know.
- If you are not taking notes or viewing other class materials on your laptop, it should be closed. If you are found using your computer for purposes other than this class, you may lose the privilege to use your computer during class.
- Be engaged in class discussions and workshop activities, your participation grade depends on it:
 - Participate with enthusiasm
 - Show genuine effort to cooperate with others
 - Show leadership and take initiative in group efforts
 - Frequently and eagerly offer your thoughts, perspectives, and responses to instructor/classmates
 - Make contributions that reflect excellent preparation (i.e., complete required reading)
- Practice professionalism
 - Communicate (face-to-face, emails, etc.) with the professor and fellow students in a professional and appropriate manner
 - Use body language (ex., eyes, posture) that shows active listening during instructor/student presentations
 - Be careful not to distract others (socializing, sleeping, leaving early or during class, reading unrelated material, doing homework for another class or wearing inappropriate attire);
 - Be respectful towards others

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Attendance will be taken. **Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student.** *Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, will constitute failure for the course. Communicate with me if you must be absent or late for any reason.* Students are individually responsible for material they may have missed due to absence or tardiness. Please notify me in advance if there are any special needs.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted only if you an extension is granted. The standard extension is 3 days. You should email the instructor at least 2 hours before the start of class when the assignment is due to request an extension. Requesting an extension does not guarantee it will be granted.

If you do not communicate with me at all within 24 hours of the due date, I will NOT accept the assignment and no credit for the assignment will be given. My policy is intended to encourage communication with me regarding any difficulty handing the assignment in on time.

Please be sure when uploading assignments to D2L that the file has uploaded to the correct Dropbox. I will not accept the excuse that 'I thought I uploaded it, it must not have gone through'. If you have trouble uploading, please contact me.

Group Assignments

When working in groups, you are responsible for communication outside of class within your group. It is your responsibility to be proactive in reaching out to group members and working together to complete assignments. When a group assignment is handed in, it is assumed that the work represents the final deliverable for the whole group. The entire group should review the assignment before it is handed in. If your group is having trouble communicating and/or working together, please contact me as soon as possible to resolve issues.

Incomplete Grades

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.

- All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval.
- If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirement independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form.
- By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of F after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor.
- An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.

Withdrawal

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (<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.

Retroactive Withdrawal

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval.

College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MyCDM. The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows:

- Autumn Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter
- Winter Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter
- Spring Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter
- Summer Terms: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

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.

Academic Integrity Policy & Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

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.

Assignments submitted to D2L will be electronically checked for plagiarism (using specialized software built in to D2L).

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

Visit the Writing Center

Consider visiting the Writing Center to discuss your written assignments for this course. Writing Center Tutors are specially trained undergraduate and graduate students who can help you at any stage of your writing project. They can help you focus and develop your ideas, review your drafts, and polish your writing, as well as answer questions about grammar, mechanics, style, and citation.

You may schedule appointments on an as-needed or weekly basis. In addition to Face-to-Face appointments, the Writing Center also provides Written Feedback by Email and Online Appointments. Be sure to schedule your appointment with enough time to think about and incorporate the feedback you'll receive. Bring/upload your assignment handout and/or any other relevant materials to your appointment.

How do I schedule a Writing Center appointment? To schedule a Face-to-Face, Written Feedback by Email, or Online Appointment, visit www.depaul.edu/writing. You can also call one of our offices: (312) 362-6726 (Loop Office, 1600 Lewis Center) or (773) 325-4272 (LPC Office, 250 McGaw Hall). When possible, the Writing Center accepts walk-in requests, but it's always a good idea to schedule your appointment ahead of time. You may schedule tutorials on an as-needed basis or as weekly standing appointments up to 3 hours per week. All Writing Center services are free to the DePaul community.

Changes to Syllabus

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