

**The Art Institute of California – San Francisco
Course Syllabus**

Course Number: GD3371
Course Title: Project Study
Section: A

Class Meetings: Monday 1-5 pm, 1170 Market, Room 513
Session/Year: Spring 2009
Instructor Name: Nina Bellisio
Email Address: nina@bellisio.com
Phone: (website) <http://classes.ninabellisio.com>
Instructor Availability Outside of Class: by appointment

Project Study

Course Description:

Through observation and documenting their own work, students focus on projects of their own within an area of interest with the approval of the Academic Director. In this course, students will work with non-profit organizations (optional).

Course Length: 11 Weeks
Contact Hours: 44 Hours
 Lecture: 22Hours
 Lab: 22 Hours

Credit Values: 3 Credits

Course Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Assess your own current skills and design tasks accordingly.
- Work independently from proposal to final execution.
- Develop an understanding of integrating their personal vision with the design problem.
- Develop an understanding of time management and conceptual thinking.
- Demonstrate the ability to self-direct, time manage, analyze and present your project goals and progress.
- Confront and remedy design problems.
- Identify, analyze, and prioritize problems.
- Apply logical design valuation.

Course Prerequisite(s): GD2264 Digital Message Making

Text(s): *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, Edward R. Tufte, Graphics Press 1995. ISBN: 0-9613921-0-X. (suggested)

Materials and Supplies: Storage disk, presentation supplies, color prints, sketchbook, pens and markers

Estimated Homework Hours: 4 Hours

Technology Needed: Computer, design software, Office software, camera, printers, scanner

Grading Scale:

All assignments must have clear criteria and objectives to meet. All students shall be treated equitably. It will be that student's right to know his/her grade at any reasonable point that information is requested by that student. The criteria for determining a student's grade shall be as follows (on a percentage of total points basis):

A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-65
F	64 or below

Process for Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Research and Data Development	15%
Classwork	10%
Final Project Presentation/Craftsmanship	55%

Student Evaluation/Grading Policies:

- Class time will be spent in a productive manner.
- Grading will be done on a point system.
- Points for individual activities will be announced.
- All work must be received by the set deadlines.
- Full letter grade will be deducted from final grade for any MISSED deadlines.
- On-time projects may be redone with instructor approval.

- ABSOLUTELY NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE FINAL CLASS MEETS WEEK 11.

Classroom Policy:

- No food allowed in class or lab at any time. Drinks in recloseable bottles allowed in classroom.
- Edible items brought to class or lab must be thrown out.
- If student elects to eat/drink outside class or lab door, missed time is recorded as absent.
- Attendance is taken hourly. Tardiness or absence is recorded in 15-minute increments.
- Break times are scheduled by the instructor at appropriate intervals.
- No private software is to be brought to lab or loaded onto school computers.
- No software games are allowed in lab (unless in course curriculum).
- Headphones are required if listening to music during lab. No headphones are allowed in lecture.
- Any student who has special needs that may affect his or her performance in this class is asked to identify his/her needs to the instructor in private by the end of the first day of class. Any resulting class performance problems that may arise for those who do not identify their needs will not receive any special grading considerations.

SEE ADDENDUM FOR FULL LIST OF CLASS POLICIES

Disability Policy Statement:

It is our policy not to discriminate against qualified students with documented disabilities in its educational programs, activities, or services. If you have a disability-related need for adjustments or other accommodations in this class, contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator at 415-276-1060.

Academic Honesty Policy:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty while pursuing their studies at AiCA-SF. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: plagiarism and cheating; misuse of academic resources or facilities; and misuse of computer software, data, equipment or networks.

Student work that appears to violate AiCA-SF's standards of academic honesty will be reviewed by the Committee on Academic Honesty. If the work is judged to have violated standards of academic honesty, appropriate sanctions will be given. Sanctions include but are not limited to course failure and academic termination.

Suggested Course Outline

- Week 1:** **Lecture:** Discussion of the course objectives and requirements.
Lab: Edward Tufte and the basics of information design.
Homework: Brainstorm ideas for individual projects, write design brief and begin research and data collection.
- Week 2:** **Lecture:** Designing icons.
Lab: Discuss individual proposals. In-class design challenge.
Homework: Continue project research.
- Week 3:** **Lecture:** Representing time.
Lab: Look at design briefs. In-class design challenge.
Homework: Continue project research. Printed research and bibliography and digital presentation due for midterm assessment.
- Week 4:** **Lecture:** Looking at graphs.
Lab: Open lab. In-class design challenge.
Homework: Begin lay out of personal project.
- Week 5:** **Lecture:** Midterm research presentations
Lab: Presentations
Homework: Continue personal project.
- Week 6:** **Lecture:** Web formats.
Lab: In-class design challenge.
Homework: Continue personal project.
- Week 7:** **Lecture:** Design in context.
Lab: Open lab or class trip TBD.
Homework: Continue personal project.
- Week 8:** **NO CLASS**
- Week 9:** **Lecture:** In-process critiques.
Lab: Open lab
Homework: Continue personal project, printed comps due for critique.
- Week 10:** **Lecture:** In-process critiques.
Lab: Open lab.
Homework: Finish and print personal project, revise design brief.
- Week 11:** **Lecture:** Project presentation.

Lab: Photo shoot individual projects. Students submit sketchbook documentation along with FINAL PDF file (of project) for final evaluation.