

INF385T.1

SPRING 2019

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COURSE INFO

Unique #27585
Tuesday 9-12 a.m.
UTA 1.210A

Computer Lab Teaching Room

*This room permits no food or
drinks except water in spill-proof
containers, but you may leave
your drinks in the main lab to
have during break*

PRESENTING INFORMATION

Who needs to present information well?

Bad information design confronts us every day. Posters and flyers force us to hunt for basic information such as where, when, who, what, and why. Reports lack clear formatting that would help us find information quickly; graphics appear in reports with no explanatory text or titles. We routinely hear talks that meander with no clear point, while slide decks inundate us with lengthy bulleted lists and distracting animation. Whether the presentation is numerical, visual, textual, or verbal, bad design choices hinder our ability to comprehend and use information.

As information professionals, we, of all people, ought to know better than to present information poorly. This course is one attempt to make sure we do. But mostly, it is an opportunity for us to have fun exploring new areas while learning how to be good presenters of information. If you think you'll like learning how to design for vision and cognition, why white space is your friend, why tables look better with shading than with grid lines, and why "tell them where you're going, tell them where you are, tell them where you've been" is a bit tired as a plan for talk outlines, this course is for you. Note this course is not a course on data visualization, which we offer separately at the iSchool; by including topics such as report writing and giving verbal presentations, this course is much broader than data visualization, and it tends to deal with smaller datasets.

Although our time together will be slanted towards gaining practical skills, we will build up these skills based on our understanding of fundamental theories in areas such as cognitive psychology and communication that explain how people perceive and construe sensory input. Thus, I welcome students who are curious about the theory behind and the techniques of presentation, who are keen to add to their professional toolkit, who can work independently (no group projects), and who, in class, are willing to contribute in a friendly, non-competitive manner to facilitate learning in an active and open design environment. My goal in offering this course is to prepare you for your professional career by helping you acquire the skills and knowledge needed to present information well in numerical, visual, textual, and verbal form.

What materials do you need for this course?

Hardware and software that the school will supply

With classes held in the computer lab, you'll have full access to desktop machines and all the software that we will use in this course. You can also bring your laptop; the software that we will use is often freely downloadable. However, not all packages are available for or work well on Macs, which may mean you'll need the desktops for some assignments.

Physical implements that you must supply

(bring to class week 2)

- Calculator (what is on your phone or laptop is fine).
- Wooden (preferred) or rigid plastic ruler.

Books that you must purchase

(bring to class on appropriate day, used copies are fine)

Few, Stephen. 2013. <i>Information Dashboard Design: Displaying Data for At-a-Glance Monitoring</i> . Burlingame, CA: Analytics Press. (ok to buy his 2006 book with different subtitle from O'Reilly).	~\$15
Reynolds, Garr. 2011. <i>Presentation Zen: Simple Ideas on Presentation Design and Delivery</i> . 2 nd edition, Berkeley, CA: New Riders.	~\$9
Roman, K. and Raphaelson, J. 2000. <i>Writing that Works: How to Communicate Effectively in Business</i> , 3 rd Edition. Collins.	~\$9
Williams, Robin. 2015. <i>The Non-Designer's Design Book</i> , Fourth Edition. San Francisco, CA: Peachpit Press.	~\$28
A grammar book of your choice. Here's a favorite of mine: Thurman, Susan. 2003. <i>The Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need: A One-Stop Source for Every Writing Assignment</i> . Avon, Mass.: Adams Media.	~\$9

total ~\$59

IN THIS COURSE, YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO:

- Master the basics of clean layout and design, and then apply your new skills in creating effective information objects
- Design tables and graphs that fit and showcase the data
- Design an information dashboard to display key metrics to managers, having worked with managers to gain data and understand needs
- Design slide decks that illustrate your words, support your points, and transform your talk
- Design succinct, information-rich reports that get read
- Give talks that allow people to hear and see your message
- Work with various graphical design and presentation software packages (specifically, Excel, Olik, Photoshop, InDesign, and Piktochart), beginning with in-class tutorials followed by independent exploration and learning
- Grasp theoretical underpinnings from fields such as cognitive psychology and communication so that you understand how the senses and brain work together to permit perception, and then design with those underpinnings in mind

Articles and book chapters that the school provides for you (find them on Canvas)

- Cleveland, William S. 1984. Graphs in scientific publications. *The American Statistician*, 38(4): 261-269.
- Cleveland, William S. and McGill, Robert. 1985. Graphical perception and graphical methods for analyzing scientific data. *Science*, 229(4716): 828-833.
- Grant, Elizabeth R. and Spivey, Michael J. 2003. Eye movements and problem solving: Guiding attention guides thought. *Psychological Science*, 14(5): 462- 466.
- Heath, C. & Heath, D. 2008. Making your presentation stick. From their website: <http://heathbrothers.com/resources/>.
- Hegarty, Mary. 2011. The cognitive science of visual-spatial displays: Implications for design. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 3:446-474.
- Kosslyn, Stephen M. 1989. Understanding charts and graphs. 1989. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 3:185-226.
- McCabe, David P. and Catel, Alan D. 2008. Seeing is believing: The effect of brain images on judgments of scientific reasoning. *Cognition*, 107: 343-352.
- Savoy, April, Proctor, Robert W., and Salvendy, Gavriel. 2009. Information retention from PowerPoint™ and traditional lectures. *Computers & Education*, 52: 858-867.
- Schwabish, Jonathan A. 2012. Infographics at the Congressional Budget Office. *IEEE Conference on Visual Analytics Science and Technology*, Seattle, WA, 141-142.
- Smith, Laurence D., Best, Lisa A., Stubbs, D. Alan, Archibald, Andrea Bastiani, and Robertson-Nay, Roxann. 2002. Constructing knowledge: The role of graphs and tables in hard and soft psychology. *American Psychologist*, 57(10): 749-761.

What are the assignments in this course and how will we do them?

There are six creative products due in this course and three talks. Among these nine assignments, none is a group project. My sense is that you do plenty of group projects in our program, and I want each of you to gain all the skills in this course. Therefore, you must hand in assignments that reflect your individual effort, not others students' effort (current or past). I encourage you, however, to seek your peers' help, advice, and feedback. For example, your peers may show you a software trick to solve a problem you cannot resolve on your own or they may critique your design and offer ideas to improve it. I am available in class to offer feedback and ideas on your in-process designs but I cannot provide this service on draft items sent to me via email. In addition, you cannot "fix" returned assignments for me to re-evaluate in hopes of a higher grade; I simply do not have the time to grade your work twice.

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

In the assignment descriptions, I tell you what you need to do, how to do it, what to hand in and how to do so, and what I will look for when grading your work. Read each set of instructions three times:

- First, read the instructions at the beginning of the semester so that you know what to expect. Block out time on your calendar to do the work (maybe twice what you estimate). These dates will not change.
- When the time comes to do the work, read the instructions a second time.
- Before you hand in your work, read the instructions one last time to make sure you did what you were supposed to in the manner I described.

Tables and graphs

What to Do and How to Do It. You will receive a handout with instructions for designing a set of tables in Excel, constructing several graphs in Excel, and writing up a short explanation of your design choices. We will have a tutorial on Excel, which you must use for this assignment.

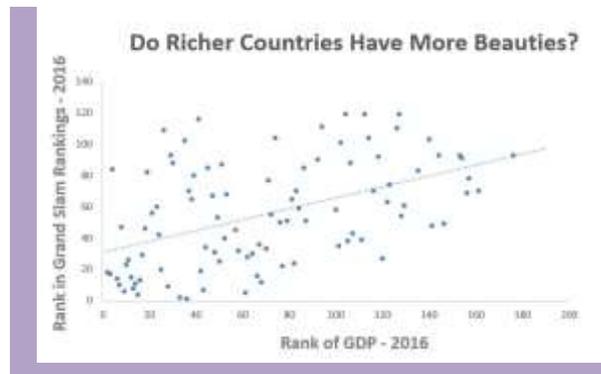
What to Hand in and How to Do So. Before class, submit to me by email (**not Canvas**) two items: a revised Excel spreadsheet for the tables and a slide deck (.ppt, .pptx, or .pdf) into which you will have pasted the charts. Each filename should begin with your last name then your first name. Neither of these items should exceed 1 MB in size. Bring to class a printed, stapled document with your design explanation; use 12-point font, 1.15 line spacing, and 1-inch margins all around with 2 inches on the right. See the handout for details of what I require for each item. Heed well the box “Turn Stuff In On Time” in this syllabus: send files before class and bring your document at the beginning of class. I won’t repeat this warning in future assignment descriptions, and I do deduct half a grade if your work is not ready at the very beginning of class.

What I Will Look for When Grading. I will grade this assignment based on how well you follow the design principles for tables and graphs that we will discuss in class, including formatting for ease of reading and finding information. Your grade will suffer if you violate those principles and if you fail to heed the tips in the handout and the advice I give to you in class. For example, I will instruct you to order columns so that newest data are first; thus, if you fail to reorder the data columns, I will lower your grade. Similarly, the handout will provide information about data that are unnecessary for the decision-making task your design is meant to aid (e.g., cancelled or shared databases); inclusion of those data in your main table will also result in a lowered grade (you are to place them in separate tables). Likewise, if you submit for the correlation chart a chart that does not show the possible correlation between two variables as an x-y scatterplot with a linear trendline, or for the time series chart a chart that does not show change in a single variable over time, I will lower your grade.

Student Molly Roy created this table as an improvement for an existing one at a UT system library; it is a model of good design.

Student Dan Xu created this scatterplot chart to see if a countries’ numbers of beauty pageant winners were correlated with their GDP. Make sure your chart looks like this one: one trendline among many data points. If your chart has two data lines, you created it incorrectly (make sure to include only two columns of data, not a category column as well, when selecting the data to make the chart).

Database	College	FY1112 Cost	FY1112 CPU	Jan. - May 2012 Sessions
Nixos Music Library	ABS	\$1,650	\$2.67	189
Children's Literature Review	ABS	\$1,597	\$106.44	n/a
Something About the Author	ABS	\$1,495	\$747.75	1
Oxford English Dictionary	ABS	\$1,462	\$1.57	52
AEA American Economic Association	ABS	\$735	\$29.40	12
ACLS Humanities E-Book Project	ABS	\$707	\$0.39	n/a
Humanities I-Book Project	ABS	\$707	\$6.99	n/a
Physical Reviews Online Archive	ABS	\$690	\$7.67	n/a
Science of Synthesis	ABS	\$677	\$7.52	n/a
MathSciNet	ABS	\$608	\$0.46	201
Global Road Warrior	ABS	\$532	\$1.01	40
Jazz Music Library	ABS	\$500	\$4.55	282
Texas Historical Newspapers	ABS	\$346	\$0.06	n/a
IPA Source	ABS	\$174	\$0.03	305
European Views of the Americas: 1493-1750	ABS	\$0	\$0.00	14837
ABS Total		\$215,836		



Dashboard and dashboard written description

What to Do and How to Do It. You will design an information dashboard for a real organization of your choice. The organization must be willing to provide you with the necessary information to do so; if you submit a dashboard using data you find online without having a conversation with a client, the highest grade you can earn is a B+. You may not use annual report data.

To convince an organization that they could use a dashboard for internal (staff) or external (public or client) use, you might show them some examples; just type “information dashboard” into Google images, or direct them to this one put together by the state of Utah <https://dspd.utah.gov/reports/employment-first-initiative/>.

Getting data, cleaning data, and understanding manager’s information needs take a significant amount of time, so start early in your search for an organization. Your dashboard must have a minimum of six tables and/or graphs. Work with the manager to understand what data they have (e.g., What does each column label mean? How are the data calculated?) and what important information they want to display.

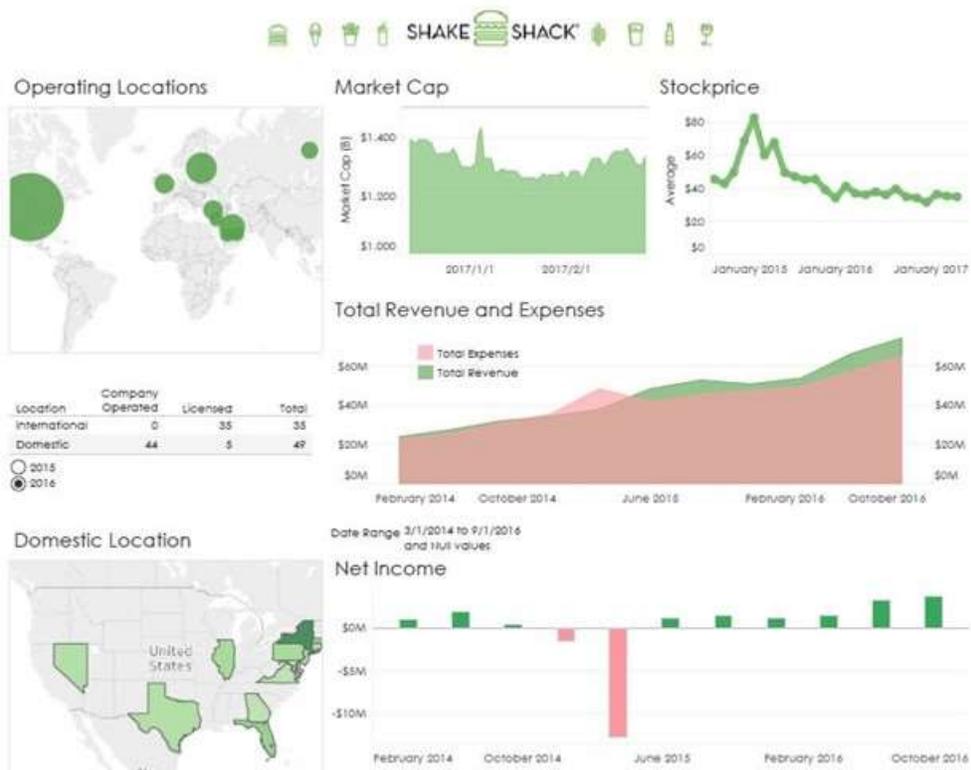
Our class tutorial will introduce you to Qlik, an information dashboard software application. You need not complete your assignment in Qlik; you may instead use Tableau (also a dashboard software), Excel, PowerPoint, or another program. However, I would note that employers favor experience with Qlik and Tableau; every year students tell me they got interviews based on this experience. No matter which software you use, your dashboard must render its charts, tables, and other graphics from actual data. Ultimately, you are responsible only for the front-end design of the dashboard and not for any back-end programming that would update information automatically.

What to Hand in and How to Do So. You will submit the dashboard design as a digital file by email (**not Canvas**) to me before class. If you use Qlik, send me the qvf file, which you will find in this directory on your machine: C:\Users\USERNAME\Documents\Qlik\Sense\Apps. If you use Tableau, save your dashboard as a packaged workbook and send me the twbx file; this file packages any needed data with your dashboard. Else, send your file as a .pdf exported from the dashboard software or other software that you employed. You may NOT use any other dashboard software beyond what I have listed without permission. Label your file with your last name followed by your first name, not the organization’s name.

Bring to class a printed, stapled written description of the dashboard. Your description should begin with a one- or two-paragraph *description of the organization* in your own words. Next, describe the *organization’s dashboard needs* as relayed to you by your contact (provide name and email). Next, tell *how client needs shaped dashboard design*. Then discuss *what information the dashboard displays, why the dashboard displays information the way it does, why the dashboard includes the information that it does, and information considered but not included* (and why). In your description, use headings that reflect the italicized items I listed here. Do not provide a play-by-play of your thought processes or design decisions; instead, make clear why the dashboard has the form and content that it does. Use 12-point font, 1.15 line spacing, and 1-inch margins all around with 2 inches on the right.

What I Will Look for When Grading. I will grade your written description based on how well you address each of the items above. I will judge a dashboard’s quality based on its readability, the sense that a viewer can readily make of it, the perceived value that the organization would gain from it, the perceived appropriateness of the quantity and type of information that you display and the form in which you display it, the placement of items based on importance, and your attention to detail. I will not grade the description as a report (as a written presentation of information) because at this stage we will not yet have covered those skills. Nonetheless, a clear, logical description free of grammatical and typographical errors will aid your cause. I expect the written description (not counting the printed dashboard) to be 3-4 pages long, no more or less.

Student Chun-Wei Chen built this dashboard to show financial information for his favorite burger joint.



TURN STUFF IN ON TIME

I think that meeting deadlines is good preparation for a professional career: every design might benefit from extra time, but most deliverables at work need to be done on time for a client, program, or project deadline. In addition, I have already set time aside on my calendar to grade each assignment in this course. When you hand your work in late, you require me to find a new time, just for you and separate from your classmates, to grade your work, which isn't being respectful of my time.

Thus, you will lose half a letter grade (e.g., A becomes A-, A- becomes B+, and so on) if your materials are not **submitted before class**, or in some cases as described below, **ready by the start of class** on their due date. You will lose another half a grade per additional day late.

When handing in your work, please do not tell me that your work is late or constructed inappropriately because a printer was not working in the lab, the software failed at the last minute, or you could not find a stapler. After all, the entire point of this course is the professional presentation of information, so please be professional.

SHOW YOUR BEST EFFORT

I expect you to give each assignment your best effort; you simply cannot gain the skills and knowledge this class offers if you don't put in the time. Because giving talks is for many of you the most stressful activity in this class, your first talk is pass/fail (P/F) to help you focus on skill acquisition, not grades; the same is true for the poster, your first attempt at layout skills.

Assignment	%
Tables and Graphs	15%
Dashboard and Description	20%
Poster (P/F)	5%
Infographic	15%
Written Report	20%
Slide Deck	10%
Talk I (P/F)	5%
Talk II	5%
Talk III	5%
Total	100%

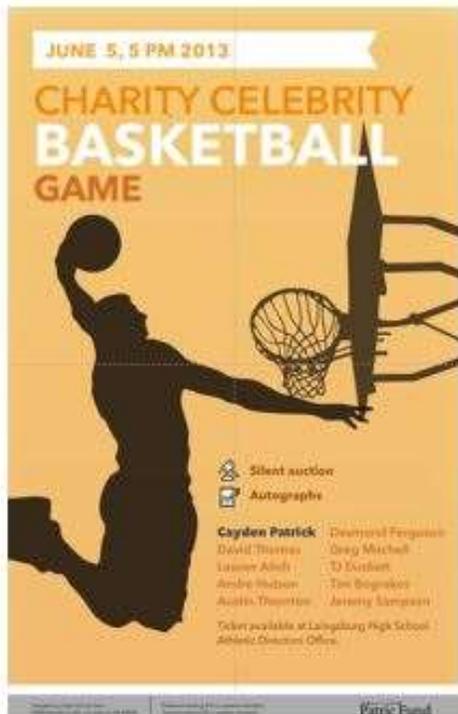
Poster

What to Do and How to Do It. You will redesign a poorly designed event poster of your choice; I will provide examples in class. Your first task is to find a poorly designed event poster on your own (do not borrow from a friend a poster used in this class in prior semesters; I keep all files and will check). Such posters litter the campus and Guadalupe, or you may find one online. Capture an image of the poster you wish to redesign via a camera picture or an online snapshot; make sure the image is clear. Redesign the poster following the design principles we will discuss in class as well as the ones in the reading assignment. In your redesign, convey the same basic information that the original poster did (you may remove extraneous information), but in a better way. You may use Photoshop, for which we will have a tutorial in class, or any other design software (PowerPoint is also fine).

What to Hand in and How to Do So. Submit the original poster image and your redesign as digital files that you will post before class to a discussion in Canvas for this course as two slides (no more, no less) in a slide deck. We should not require special software to view the images (e.g., .pdf, an image file like .jpg or .png, or PowerPoint slides would be fine). Label the file with your last name followed by your first name. Your file should not exceed 5 MB; if it does, check how you pasted in graphics. We will critique your work in class and you will use it as the basis for your first talk.

What I Will Look for When Grading. The poster is P/F, which means if you make an attempt that I deem conscientious, you will get a P, else not. You will receive feedback from the class and me that will highlight what you did well and where you can improve in terms of placement of graphics/logos, use of white space, font choices (e.g., resonance with your message and effect on layout and alignment), and overall effect of your poster, including how well it reflects the spirit of the event.

Student Xi Chen created this poster as an improvement over a poorly designed poster that she saw.

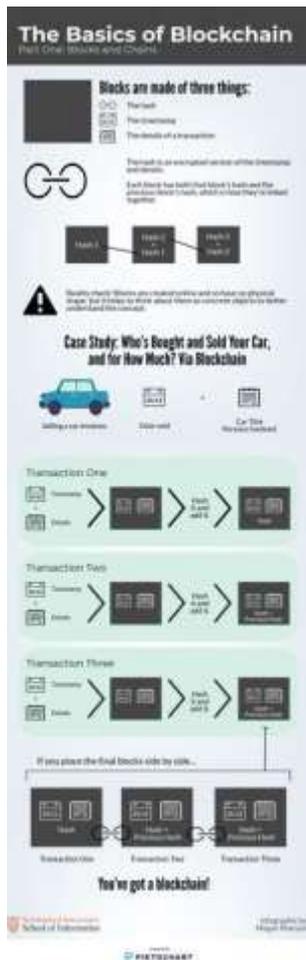


Infographic

What to Do and How to Do It. You will create an infographic for an organization of your choice, which can be the same organization you used for the dashboard assignment. The organization must be real, but they need not know about or approve your intentions. If you decide to create an infographic for a cause or a topic instead of a specific organization, talk to me first so that we can figure out how you can do it. Our in-class tutorial will introduce you to Piktochart, which you may use to create your infographic. You may also use Venngage, PowerPoint, or any design software of your choice.

What to Hand in and How to Do So. Submit your infographic by placing it in a Canvas discussion before class. Label your file beginning with your last name and first name. Submit it as a slide deck, with the first slide showing the entire infographic so that we get a sense of its overall form, and one slide per panel after that so that we can see the zoomed images and text. Ask the purple shirts for help if your file exceeds 5 MB; in other words, do not submit anything bigger than that. Do not change your file after the due date; leave the original in the discussion for your talk.

What I Will Look for When Grading. I will grade your infographic based on the readability of its components, the sense that a viewer can readily make of it, the perceived value that the organization would gain from it, the perceived appropriateness of the quantity and type of information that you display, your attention to detail, and your application of layout and design principles as discussed in class.



Students Megan Pearson, Yifei Qui, and Sara Merrifield, respectively, created these infographics based on their interests.



Written Report

What to Do and How to Do It. Using the description you provided with your dashboard, you will create a graphically designed 8.5” x 11” report. You have ample time between submission of the dashboard and submission of the report to work with the writing center and the TA to get help in improving the grammar, spelling, logic, and style of your report copy. Thus, good writing is something that I expect and your focus at this point should be on the report design.

The report has no page limit; however, you should balance brevity with necessary detail, with no extension of the copy required unless I noted on your dashboard feedback that it was incomplete. The report has mandatory elements as follows.

- The first page of the report should be a well-designed cover page containing the report title, your name, the date submitted, and the organization’s name.
- An executive summary labeled as such and no longer than one page should directly follow the cover page, briefly detailing what the report covers, why you wrote it, and what recommendations it makes. We will discuss in class how to craft tightly written, informative executive summaries.
- A well-designed table of contents should appear on the next page.
- Following the table of contents should be a well-designed list of figures by label, title, and page number (and not the figures themselves) and list of tables (same information). We will discuss in class how to create design-rich, informative tables of content and lists of figures and tables.
- The balance of the report should feature orderly well-designed sections with subheadings as specified in the dashboard assignment description. Use graphics such as tables and figures, all neatly titled and labeled, to help convey data-rich information.
- Attach with a paper clip to the front of the stapled report a brief formal business letter of transmittal addressed to your contact at the organization. It should tell the manager that the report is attached, remind the manager why you wrote the report (e.g., “At your request, ...”), and provide your contact information should the manager have questions. Create your own letterhead.

You must include in your report all the elements that appear in your dashboard (i.e., each table, map, and chart on the dashboard must be a separate table or figure in the report). Remove embedded titles in charts and tables, labeling them instead below or above where they appear in your report. Choose line spacing, font sizes, and margins that best serve your design. For example, you most likely will want to use smaller font and line spacing than I required you to use on your other written work because large, widely-spaced text does not look good in a two-column format. Our in-class tutorial will introduce you to the desktop publishing features of InDesign. You may complete this assignment using InDesign or any desktop publishing software (e.g., Scribus, Word). No matter which software you use, you must have at least two pages of the report in two-column format.

What to Hand in and How to Do So. Bring a printed copy of your report to class; do not email it to me. If possible, print your report double-sided. A plastic cover or any binding other than what I specified above is not acceptable. Students often like to use color printing for this report, but routinely have problems with the printer before class. Do not put off printing your report until right before it is due.

What I Will Look for When Grading. I will grade your report based on solid writing (including good grammar), logical organization, coherent presentation, quality of content, good design (including recognition of design principles), and conformity to the specifications detailed here. As I will explain in class, I am not looking for a typical typed low-design class paper. Rather, I am looking for a professional report with multiple, high-design graphical elements. The design of this syllabus should serve as an example to give you some sense of the type of design I am looking for in the sections of your report.

Slide Deck

What to Do and How to Do It. You will create a slide deck for an organization of your choice that you have not already used in this class. The organization must be real, but they need not know about or approve your intentions. The information that you present also need not be real, but typically is more interesting if it is.

In addition to your title slide, you must have at least four other slides in the deck: (1) a table of your own creation, (2) a chart of your own creation, (3) a photo or graphic (you may take one from the web), and (4) some textual information (for example, three main points, a quote, and so on, that you formatted).

We will not have a tutorial on PowerPoint or another slide presentation technology; consult the purple shirts, your peers, or ample online resources if you have technical problems.

You may NOT use Prezi for this assignment for reasons I will discuss in class.

What to Hand in and How to Do So. Submit your slide deck prior to class by posting it to a Canvas discussion. Label your file beginning with your last name and then your first name. Ask the purple shirts for help if your file exceeds 5 MB; in other words, do not post anything bigger than that. Posting a .pdf version of your slide deck is the safest option because then you need not worry that the instruction desktop at the front of the room does not have your fonts loaded. Do not remove the files from the discussion; I will later access them for grading.

What I Will Look for When Grading. I want to see you display a range of information that demands a range of presentation formats (e.g., text, charts, graphics, and photos, as noted above), yet forms a coherent set. I will further grade the designs based on the quality of your application of layout and design principles that we will have discussed in class, such as your use of white space, color, font type, placement, and so on, in addition to principles tailored to slide decks, such as font size, use of bullets, and color combinations.



These slides are excerpts from decks that students Sarah Gardner and Sunjia Tseng, respectively, created.

Talk I (two minutes)

What to Do and How to Do It. You will give a talk in which you show us the “before” poster and your “after” poster (your redesign) and explain to us your design rationale. This talk is short, but it will provide ample time for us to discern the major issue on which you should focus in speaking.

What to Hand in and How to Do So. Place a slide deck (no Prezi) with only two slides, the before poster and the after poster, in the specified discussion folder on Canvas. Posting a .pdf version of your slide deck is the safest option because then you need not worry that the instruction desktop at the front of the room does not have your fonts loaded.

What I Will Look for When Grading. This talk is P/F, which means if you make an attempt that I deem conscientious (e.g., you are prepared and clearly have practiced), you will get a P, else, not. You will receive feedback from the class and me that will highlight what you did well and where you can improve, and we hope to videotape you so that you can watch later.

Talk II (three minutes)

What to Do and How to Do It. Your talk will be the “reveal” of your infographic in which you will explain to us (the organization for which you prepared it) your design rationale and persuade us to use the infographic. In other words, you need to pitch the infographic to us so that we understand its value, what information it relays, and how we might use it (e.g., what groups to target). You will present your infographic via slide projection (no Prezi). Beginning with an overall view of the infographic followed by zoomed panels is a good approach.

What to Hand in and How to Do So. Similar to Talk I, now for infographic.

What I Will Look for When Grading. I will grade the talk in terms of a strong introduction and conclusion, logical flow throughout, and use of body, voice, and affect.

Talk III (four minutes, class size permitting)

What to Do and How to Do It. You will give a talk using your slide deck. You will not give a talk that explains your design choices in relation to the slide deck (as you did for the infographic); rather, you will give a talk that a person from the organization might give with the slide deck. You will construe the class as the audience appropriate for that talk and begin your talk in a manner that lets us know who we are (“Getting people to prepare for disasters is tough work. Here at the Red Cross, we all know...”)

What to Hand in and How to Do So. Similar to Talk I, now for slide deck.

What I Will Look for When Grading. Same as Talk II.

THE GROUND RULES

Show Up, Speak Up, and Help Others

For this course to work, you need to attend every class and to have completed the reading and any assignments so that you can actively engage in discussions. Because I appreciate your attendance, your willingness to discuss topics, and your genuinely collaborative and helpful behavior towards your classmates, I may consider these factors (positively or negatively) if your grade lies at a border.

Honor Yourself, Honor the University, Honor Us All

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Source:

<http://www.utexas.edu/welcome/mission.html>

Holler if You Need Help

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD.

- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).
- Please notify me as early in the semester as possible if disability-related accommodations for field trips are required. Advanced notice will permit the arrangement of accommodations on the given day (e.g., transportation, site accessibility, etc.).
- Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD's website for more disability-related information:
http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php

And When Religion Calls....

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class or an assignment to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

What will we be doing each week?

Wk	Topic	Guiding Question	Reading and Other Preparation (to be done BEFORE class)	In-Class Activity	Due (before or in class)
1 1/22	Intro	"How do our eyes and mind work together to perceive information?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the syllabus carefully and completely; come prepared for a quiz • Read Cleveland, "Graphs in Scientific Publications" • Read Grant and Spivey, 2003, "Eye Movements and Problem Solving" • Read McCabe and Castel, 2008, "The Effect of Brain Images on Judgments of Scientific Reasoning" 	Student intros Discussion of reading Tutorial: Excel	
2 1/29	Graphical practice and integrity	"How do people exaggerate (and, let's face it, cheat and lie) using charts and graphs, and how can we be honest communicators?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Hegarty, 2011, "Visual-Spatial Displays" • Sign up for a writing center slot now for weeks 8, 9, or 10. 	Measuring and Excel exercises Discussion of reading	
3 2/5	Tables and Graphs	"What are tables and graphs good for, and how do they look best?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Smith et al., 2002, "The Role of Graphs and Tables in Hard and Soft Psychology" • Read Kosslyn, "Understanding Charts and Graphs" • Read Cleveland and McGill, "Graphical Perception" 	HW handout Discussion of reading Assignment review	
4 2/12	Dashboards – Content and Design	"How can we arrange tables and graphs to help people make decisions for, monitor progress of, or better understand an organization?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Few, <i>Information Dashboard Design</i>, Ch. 2,4, 6 	Discussion of reading Assignment review Tutorial: Qlik	Tables and Graphs

Wk	Topic	Guiding Question	Reading and Other Preparation (to be done BEFORE class)	In-Class Activity	Due (before or in class)
5 2/19	Dashboards – Analysis	“How do I wrangle my data into and analyze them with this software to achieve my dashboard objectives?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Few, <i>Information Dashboard Design</i>, Ch. 12, 13 	Dashboard exercise	
6 2/26	Typography and Basic Layout Design Principles	“How do font types differ and how do we perceive those differences? What are the principles for layout design?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Williams, <i>Non-Designer’s Design Book</i>, Ch. 1-5 and 8-12 	Typography lecture Layout design exercise	
7 3/5	Layout Design Tool (Prof. Bailey out)	“How do I put design principles to use in practice?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Williams, <i>Non-Designer’s Design Book</i>, Ch. 6 	Photoshop tutorial	Dashboard
8 3/12	Color and White Space	“What are the design implications of how we perceive color? What is white space and why should I care about it?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Williams, <i>Non-Designer’s Design Book</i>, Ch. 7 Sign up for half-hour individual TA session to receive grammar, punctuation, and spelling help for your dashboard description during week 8, 9, or 10. 	Team redesign exercise Assignment review	
3/19	Spring Break				
9 3/26	Report Design: How to Display Content	“How can I employ what I have learned to create a report that supports comprehension and retention?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Roman & Raphaelson, <i>Writing that Works</i>, Ch. 1-3, 7, 12-13 for help on your report 	Assignment review Poster critique Tutorial: InDesign	Poster

Wk	Topic	Guiding Question	Reading and Other Preparation (to be done BEFORE class)	In-Class Activity	Due (before or in class)
10 4/2	Talks – How to Present Verbally	“How do I plan a talk and use my body, my voice, and my affect to deliver information well?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Heath & Heath, “Making Your Presentation Stick” • Be prepared to give a trial run of your two-minute talk to a small group of peers 	TED talk dissection Presentations in peer groups	
11 4/9	Talks – I (taped, for review)	“How does it feel to stand in front of the class and talk professionally?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend at least one hour this week planning your two-minute poster and one hour practicing it 	Talk debrief Poster critique	Report
12 4/16	Infographics	“How is an infographic different from a poster or a dashboard?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Schwabish, 2012, “Infographics at the Congressional Budget Office” • Come to class knowing an organization and related information for your infographic 	Assignment review Tutorial: Piktochart	
13 4/23	Talks – II (not taped)	“What is the most critical aspect I need to work on to be a better speaker?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick one suggestion from your feedback on Talk I and work on improving that aspect for your infographic talk 	Student talks with infographics	Infographic
14 4/30	Slide Decks	“How can I design slides that won’t bore or distract my audience?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Savoy et al., 2009, “Information Retention from PowerPoint” • Skim Reynolds, <i>Presentation Zen</i>. • Come to class knowing an organization and related information for your slide deck. 	Talk demo Assignment review Slide workshop	
5/7	Talks – III (taped, Prof. Bailey out)	“What did I learn about speaking that I want to remember and practice?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick one new suggestion from your feedback on Talk II and work on improving that aspect for your slide talk 	Student talks	Slide Deck

WELL, THAT WAS FUN! HOW DO I KEEP LEARNING?

Handy Books (not required, but useful in everyday work)

1. Cairo, Alberto. 2013. *The Functional Art: An Introduction to Information Graphics and Visualization*. Berkeley, CA: New Riders.
2. Few, Stephen. 2004. *Show Me the Numbers: Designing Tables and Graphs to Enlighten*. Oakland, CA: Analytics Press.
3. French, N. (2006). *InDesign type: professional typography with Adobe InDesign CS2*. Adobe Press.
4. Golombisky, Kim and Hagen, Rebecca. 2010. *White Space is Not Your Enemy: A Beginner's Guide to Communicating Visually through Graphic, Web, & Multimedia Design*. Burlington, MA: Elsevier.
5. Kosslyn, Stephen M. 2006. *Graph Design for the Eye and Mind*. Oxford University Press.
6. Murray, Daniel G. 2013. *Tableau Your Data: Fast and Easy Visual Analysis with Tableau Software®*. Indianapolis, IN: John Wiley & Sons.
7. White, Alex W. 2011. *The Elements of Graphic Design, Second Ed.* NY: Allworth Press.
8. Williams, Robin. 1995. *The PC is Not a Typewriter*. San Francisco, CA: Peachpit Press. (or the similarly titled Mac book)
9. Wong, Dona M. 2010. *The Wall Street Journal Guide to Information Graphics: The Do's and Don'ts of Presenting Data, Facts, and Figures*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton.

Informative Books (not required, but useful in gaining scientific knowledge)

1. Bringhurst, R. (2004). *The Elements of Typographic Style*. Point Roberts, WA: Hartley & Marks.
2. Changizi, Mark. 2009. *The Vision Revolution: How the Latest Research Overturns Everything We Thought We Knew About Human Vision*. Dallas, TX: Benbella Books.
3. Gregory, Richard L. 1997. *Eye and Brain: The Psychology of Seeing, Fifth Ed.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
4. Hoffman, Donald D. 1998. *Visual Intelligence: How We Create What We See*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
5. Ware, Colin. 2013. *Information Visualization: Perception for Design, Third Ed.* Waltham, MA: Morgan Kaufmann.
6. Ware, Colin. 2008. *Visual Thinking for Design*. Burlington, MA: Morgan Kaufmann.

Fascinating Books (not required, but intriguing and helpful in developing understanding)

1. Frankel, Felice C., and DePace, Angela H. 2012. *Visual Strategies: A Practical Guide to Graphics for Scientists & Engineers*. Yale University Press: New Haven.
2. Meirelles, Isable. 2013. *Design for Information: An Introduction to the Histories, Theories, and Best Practices behind Effective Information Visualizations*. Beverley, MA: Rockport Publishers.
3. Muller-Brockmann, J. (1981). *Grid Systems in Graphic Design: A Visual Communication Manual for Graphic Designers, Typographers and Three Dimensional Designers*. A. Niggli.
4. Tufte, Edward R. 2001. *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press.
5. Tufte, Edward R. 1990. *Envisioning Information*. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press.