

Revised 08/20/2025



EAST TEXAS A&M
— UNIVERSITY —

Visual Communication I, ART 2313 - 801

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Antonina Shvets

Office Location: 8750 N Central Expy Suite 1900 Box 30, Dallas, TX 7523. Room 1922.

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:15AM - 9:45AM.

Office Phone: 214.954.3636

University Email Address: ashvets@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: ashvets@leomail.tamuc.edu

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours.

Course Information

Software Required: Adobe Illustrator.

Materials: Pencil, 9x12" tracing paper.

Supplementary Readings: handouts and videos/tutorials.

Course Description

This is your introduction to visual communication. Adobe Illustrator will be used to produce a series of two- and three-dimensional design projects that explore the creative process and applications of VisCom. We will look at project management, workflow, file organization and stress the correct production methods for producing digital projects. Your semester will also contain software tutorials, done both in and out of class, quizzes, a midterm, and a final printed design project.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Introduce and reinforce the creative process and methods for problem solving.
2. Develop basic to intermediate skills in Adobe Illustrator.

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3. Strengthen application skills in correct software tool usage and document setup.
4. Gain an understanding of professional expectations, presentations and processes.
5. Deepen the students visual well.
6. Incorporate visual vocabulary into critiques and project conversations.
7. Apply basic principles of design in composition of work.
8. Execute projects with quality craftsmanship in both digital files and printed comps.
9. Familiarize students with basic branding principals in project development.
10. Appreciate the nuances and techniques used in professional graphic design. We will focus on craft and the production of assets in a timely manner. Attention to details, craftsmanship & selecting appropriate image / font / colors will be stressed as part of the creative design process.
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Class Parameters

You are expected to work in class as well as perform outside of class work.

You are expected to come to class prepared to work on the current assignment, this includes but is not limited to remembering the project supplies needed. Not being able to make progress during class due to lack of materials will reflect in your mini-deadline grade.

All projects are given with weekly steps to be accomplished by the beginning of the next class meeting. Mini-deadlines are part of the overall assignment and play a major role in your projects final grade.

You will be required through out the semester to print your assignments in color and purchase items to create assignment comps. Please budget accordingly. Projects must be comped in color to be considered complete.

All work is due on the assigned date. Projects are due at the beginning of class. For a project to considered complete, the specified electronic portion placed, as directed, onto the common drive and a hard copy provided, as specified in the assignment sheet. Late work is accepted at instructors discretion.

During class you may not work on other course projects. If a student is caught using email or social media of any kind during lecture or lab time, the entire class gets a fair warning, no second chance will be issued. On the second occurrence, the entire class received an F as their daily grade.

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Attendance

FIRST ABSENCE: The student will receive an email from the VisCom admin, a copy goes to the instructor and Thomas Jefferson.

SECOND ABSENCE: The student will receive an email from the VisCom admin, a copy goes to the instructor and Thomas Jefferso.

Antonina/Lee Hackett (Director of Visual Communication - Department of Art) will contact the student.

THIRD ABSENCE: Antonina/Lee email the student and Thomas Jefferson that they have **failed** the course.

Two tardies equals one absence.

A tardy of 60 minutes equals one absence.

If a student is OVER 10 MINUTES late for the final, a full grade will be deducted from his or her final grade.

If a student does not show up for the final they automatically fail the class.

Instructor contact and response time

ashvets@leomail.tamuc.edu

Please use your university email as your primary source of contact. If your email is more than a short paragraph, please consider making an appointment.

Communication from students will be responded to within a reasonable time during the work week. Weekend communication will be handled the next business day unless noted. Due to the high volume of email that is received an important message may be missed, if an important email has not been responded to in 2 days, please send again.

Syllabus Update Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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Words of advice

Come to class **ON TIME**, prepared with HOMEWORK and ready to work with an open mind. Class 2313 includes intensive adobe software lessons.

Grading Guidelines

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A — 90-100

- Work well above the general class level, evidence of participation in related activities
- Outside of the classroom, thoughtful participation in classroom discussion and critique
- Superlative work: careful attention to craft and presentation. Originality of idea and execution work together. Goes beyond merely solving the problem
- one who performs at this level is visibly outstanding, work is outstanding in every respect

B — 80-89

- Work above the general class level, participation in classroom discussion and critique
- Fine work. A few minor changes could have been considered and executed to bring piece together. Goes beyond merely solving the problem. Above average: solution to the problem and idea well planned. Execution is well done.

C — 70-79

- Average work, minimal requirements met
- Average or a bit above: slipping in levels of originality, craft and presentation.
- The piece does not work well as a unified whole or statement yet effort was made. You have solved the problem but in a relatively routine way.

D — 60-69

- Work below class average, lack of participation and/or poor attendance
- You have solved the problem but there is much room for improving your skills and developing your concepts further
- You have neglected the basic craftsmanship skills and breadth and depth of idea development

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- You were unable to meet mini deadlines. Represents careless and/or incomplete effort. Work is substandard.

F — 0-59

- Inferior or unacceptable work and effort, work not turned in, or failure to attend class.

In addition to exercises and projects, your final grade will also be based on critique participation and application, work ethic, and attitude. These specifications are applied as follows:

80% projects

10% quizzes/tests

10% class participation/preparedness

X — Incomplete

Students, who because of circumstances beyond their control are unable to complete their course work can, upon approval of the instructor, receive a mark of "X" (incomplete) in all courses in which they were maintaining passing grades

When an "X" is given for a grade in a course, the credit hours and grade point averages are not included until a grade is received which can be up to one year. If the "X" is not removed by that time, the grade becomes an F, and the hours are included in the number of hours attempted.

Recording a grade of "X" requires the filing of a plan for completion. e plan will be submitted with the official grade record sent to the department head who will forward it to the Dean's office. e plan will include why the grade was given and steps necessary for the student to receive the final grade. If the necessary action to complete the X plan has not been completed by the next time the course is offered the student will register to takthe course again.

AI policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text and image, or suggest replacements for text and image, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or

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for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Technology Requirements

D2L Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.html

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures: Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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- Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any class-related activity.
- Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the submission of someone else's materials as one's own work.
- Scholastic dishonesty may involve one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, or collusion.
- The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution (quotation and citation). This includes using AI tools to develop or provide the foundation for work without proper citation of its reuse. You are required to cite your AI prompts with your work. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. ALWAYS cite your references.
- Cheating is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, copying computer or Internet files, using someone else's work for assignments as if it were one's own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.
- Collusion is intentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, providing a paper or project to another student, providing an inappropriate level of assistance, communicating answers to a classmate during an examination, removing tests or answer sheets from a test site, and allowing a classmate to copy answers.
- Academic dishonesty could result in expulsion from the University

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status.

Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

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Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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