

**Destination Kent State: First Year Experience Course  
College of Communication and Information  
School of Visual Communication Design**

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office hours: 10–11:30am MW or by appointment**

**NOTE: THIS VERSION OF THE SYLLABUS IS STILL AVAILABLE ON THE CLASS WEBSITE AS A  
PLACEHOLDER AND REFERENCE ONLY.  
PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY SCHEDULE. (—ji 04/2010)**

**University Goals for Kent State Graduates:**

The lessons and assignments in this course reflect these four goals:

1. Knowledge
2. Insight
3. Engagement
4. Responsibility

**CCI's Learning Outcomes for the course:**

1. Students will gain an understanding of their major and make a connection to the major and to the faculty.
2. Students will gain an understanding of the career opportunities within their major and make a connection with professionals in the field.
3. Students will become aware of their responsibilities as KSU students and learn how to successfully navigate university policies and processes.
4. Students will be exposed to all of the CCI majors and to career opportunities within the field of communication and information.

**Class expectations:**

This is a required class. You must earn a passing grade to earn a degree from KSU.

Attendance is required. You must be on time. Absences and late arrivals are recorded.

You may miss only ONE class, regardless of the reason (illness, job, fatigue, etc.).

Under most circumstances, if you miss more than one class, your final grade will be lowered by one letter.

Please contact the instructor promptly if a situation arises that will keep you from class.

**Grading**

Attendance – 15 @ 5 points = 75 points

Homework Assignments - 15 @ 4 points = 60 points

Project - 1 @ 15 points = 15 points

Total: 150 points

**Homework**

Assignments will be worth 4 points, based on the criteria below. (1 pt each)

- Completed the assignment on time
- Followed instructions and met assignment instructions
- Demonstrated knowledge of subject matter
- Presented assignment in an organized manner

## COURSE SYLLABUS

(Numbers in parentheses coordinate with assignments on homework list.)

### Adjusting to College

#### Week of Welcome – AUG 28

Use DKS Orientation Issue as a text/reference for businesses, activities, etc.

**HW: Do two of the 'open' homework requirements (1, 2, 9-15)**

#### Week 1 – SEPT 3, 4

##### Transition to college life.

Catalog: Add/Drop/Withdrawal policies

*Class Discussion:* What are students' questions/concerns?

Find out what's in all those academic buildings on this campus.

**HW: finish *Persepolis* assignment. (8)**

#### Week 2 – SEPT 10, 11

##### Navigating University Websites and Services.

(this is the last week to Drop or add a class. Check your schedule to make sure it's accurate.)

Art in the Park (Fred Fuller Park, Middlebury Rd.) is this weekend.

**HW: Do one of the 'open' homework requirements (1, 2, 9-15)**

#### Week 3 – SEPT 17, 18

##### Being a Responsible College Student.

Note taking, study skills, time management & preparing for tests.

##### Where's your money going?

Budgeting cash, food plans. Dealing with (and without) credit cards and other such expenses.

**HW: 1. Develop a plan for preparing for exams and assignments for each class.**

**2. Pull up information to be used in next class – requirements sheets for their specific major, GPS roadmaps, and KAPS reports. (7)**

#### Week 4 – SEPT 24, 25

**MEET IN 240 MCGILVERY ON THURSDAY**

**MEET IN 215 BUSINESS ON FRIDAY**

**1. Meet the Director: AnnMarie LeBlanc.**

**2. Advising Classroom Visit #1.**

**3. LAWS IN THIS COLLEGE TOWN: HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR.**

**HW: Do one of the 'open' homework requirements (1, 2, 9-15)**

### Learning More about the Major

#### Week 5 – OCTOBER 1, 2

Learning about all of the CCI Majors & Minors and GPA requirements

**HW: Do one of the 'open' homework requirements (1, 2, 9-15)**

#### Week 6 – OCTOBER 8, 9

**MEET IN \_\_\_\_\_ on THURSDAY**

**MEET IN \_\_\_\_\_ on FRIDAY**

VCD students visit each day. Meet in large classrooms.

**HW: 1. Calculate grades in each class; determine grades needed to improve to desired and/or necessary GPA (i.e. JMC majors need a 2.75 GPA to advance in major coursework).**

**2. Write about this presentation. (4)**

**Week 7—OCTOBER 15, 16**

**Registering for Classes & Course Requirements.**

**HW: Create a tentative schedule for next semester to bring to next class. (6)**

**HW: Do one of the 'open' homework requirements (1, 2, 9–15)**

**Meet with the VCD advisor sometime in the next 6 weeks. (3)**

**Week 8—OCTOBER 22, 23**

**MEET IN 240 MCGILVERY ON THURSDAY**

**MEET IN 215 BUSINESS ON FRIDAY**

**1. Advising Classroom Visit #2.**

Advisors lead a discussion and answer questions based on students' tentative schedules.

You will have your midterm grades by this class session.

**2. THE RIGHT COMPUTER FOR VCD MAJORS. (Tom Mahon)**

**HW: Do one of the 'open' homework requirements (1, 2, 9–15)**

**Go to [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) or [www.aiga.org](http://www.aiga.org) to see designer's jobs and salary ranges.**

**Week 9—OCTOBER 29, 30**

**Career (and Major) exploration.**

Look into minors at KSU that are recommended for VCD majors.

Talk about job prospects that students found on-line.

**HW: Do one of the 'open' homework requirements (1, 2, 9–15)**

**Week 10—NOVEMBER 5, 6**

This is the last week to Withdraw from a class.

How to register for Spring 2010 classes: demonstrate flashline and registrars web sites.

**Living in a college town:**

——— **Having Fun:** Talk about alcohol-free options, and things students have done so far.

——— **Moving off campus:** greek housing, apartments v houses, COSO.

**HW: Read articles on plagiarism and design appropriation provided by instructor.**

**Gaining Independence**

**Week 11—NOVEMBER 12, 13**

**Critical thinking as it relates to students' majors.**

Discuss articles on plagiarism and design appropriation provided by the instructor.

**HW: Do one of the 'open' homework requirements (1, 2, 9–15)**

**Week 12—NOVEMBER 19, 20**

**MEET IN \_\_\_\_\_ on THURSDAY**

**MEET IN \_\_\_\_\_ on FRIDAY**

Working professionals will come to each session. Other VCD students are invited to attend.

**HW: Write about this presentation. (5)**

**Week 13—NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.**

**Week 14—DECEMBER 3, 4**

**Diversity**

**HW: PROJECT: Write about this discussion following guidelines provided by the instructor.**

**2. Finish the 'open' homework requirements (1, 2, 9–15)**

**Week 15—DECEMBER 10, 11**

**Course Review.**

**4+ year graduation plan.**

## Homework

Students should complete a page documenting their participation in 15 categories of activities, meetings, site visits over the duration of the class. You can print pictures of yourself at the event/site and add it to the page. If it is an on-campus event, the ticketing service will provide a receipt that can be added to the folder, and will serve as your proof of participation.

Write a couple paragraphs (about 300 words) about each activity, or as specified.

Some of these items will be due on specific days as listed on the course syllabus. Others will be due on 'open' dates; the order in which they are completed and submitted is up to you. You must complete each category. Each is worth 5 points.

### The following are required:

1. May 4 *video on campus, or booklet, or site visit*
2. Library *on-line tour. Take a picture of yourself by the graphic design books. Check one out.*
3. Visiting your advisor *have a note proving you were there.*  
(VCD freshmen work with Bianca Ford, 113A Art )  
[www.vcd.kent.edu/resources](http://www.vcd.kent.edu/resources) > *online advisor scheduling*

### Include a comment/reflection page from the following in-class events:

4. VCD student visit
5. Design professionals' visit
6. VCD course requirement sheet and Spring 09 tentative schedule *no essay required*
7. GPS and KAPS *no essay required*
8. Persepolis *your answer to one of the assignments listed on the Student Success web site*

### The student should select an event or site for each of the following categories:

9. Athletics *game, training, intramurals*
10. Student Success series *health-related presentations*
11. Theatre/performing arts *campus or Kent.*  
*Watch a rehearsal, performance, go to a gallery opening (KSU downtown gallery, Black Squirrel Gallery, N. Water Street Gallery, School of Art Galleries, KSU Museum [fashion]) ; The Kent Stage, School of Theatre, School of Music recitals.*
12. Student club *anything*
13. Student or town event hosted by an ethnic or social group distinctly different than your own  
*Kent Community Dinner (mostly townies), Ramadan, shabat, Sunday worship at a local church, Greek event (not a house party) for you non-greek types, etc., or a (D) Diversity Event listed in the Student Success booklet*
14. Visit a Kent city park  
*Riveredge, Depeyster field, bike trail, Towners Woods, Chase Park, Fred Fuller Park,...*  
*a map of the city of Kent is available from your Instructor*
15. Visit a locally-owned business that is not a bar  
*no franchises! Kent Natural Foods, Kent Stage, Einstein's Attic, Scribble's Café, Beckwith's Orchards, McKay Bricker Gallery, Woodsy's Music, Acorn Alley, The Works, Du Bois Bookstore, Wild Goats Café, Pulp, Campus Camera, Kent Free Library...*