

School of Planning

College of Design Architecture, Art, and Planning
University of Cincinnati

Autumn Quarter 2011

23 *PLAN 754* Computer Graphics in Planning
Room 4480 ARONOFF: Tuesdays 6:40pm – 9:30pm

Instructor:

Paul Schirmer, Adjunct Instructor, pcs036@yahoo.com
Office hours by appointment only.

Computer Graphics for Planners**Course objectives**

This is a methods course for MCP students providing basic knowledge and skills in the area of graphic communications. It is designed to give the students an overview of a wide range of computer graphic applications considered essential in the practice of planning. Along with an introduction to a number of computer applications, students will acquire basic skills in the areas of mapping, desktop publishing, and web design by exploring various alternative formats of graphics presentation.

These skills are considered critical in preparing students for subsequent planning and design studio work within the program. They are also deemed extremely valuable components of planners' education in today's fast-paced world where ideas are communicated most effectively in visual form.

Methodology

The class will be taught primarily in workshop, hands-on method, without formal lectures or presentations. The course is broken down in 10 weeks and each one of these periods introduces a particular topic and/or software program.

Throughout the quarter, each student will focus on a particular neighborhood in the city of Cincinnati and identify and present a specific problem characterizing that neighborhood. Some coordination of the selection of case studies will be required to ensure a diverse sample of neighborhoods and issues.

Course requirements

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Attendance, in-class work, and participation are extremely important, and will be reflected accordingly in the assigned grades. Any absence without a notification in advance will result in an automatic deduction of 3 points from your final grade which will be based on a 100 point scale. Thus, only one unexcused absence can make the difference between A- and B+.

There will be 8 assignments. There are no textbooks for this course; assignment concepts will be reviewed prior to assigning work. Generally, the first part of class will be for instruction, work will be assigned, and the second part of class is allocated toward student work and one-on-one instruction. Depending on student skill level, additional reference guides to ArcView, InDesign, Photoshop, and Dreamweaver along with the on-line help may be recommended.

Grading

Each assignment is graded as an A thru F letter grade. Final grades are numerically calculated by converting the A thru F grades to a 4.0 grading scale. Late assignments will get an automatic deduction of (1) full grade level ('A' to 'B'; 'B' to 'C', etc.); late assignments will only be accepted one week past due date. See table below for grade conversion.

LETTER GRADE	ASSIGNMENT SCORE	FINAL GRADE (min score)
A	4.00	3.83
A-	3.67	3.50
B+	3.33	3.17
B	3.00	2.83
B-	2.67	2.50
C+	2.33	2.17
C	2.00	1.83
C-	1.67	1.50
D+	1.33	1.17
D	1.00	0.83
D-	0.67	0.33
F	0.00	< 0.33

Recommended readings

Brewer, C., 2005, *Designing Better Maps: A Guide for GIS Users*, ESRI Press.
 Kasprisin, R., and Pettinari, J., *Visual Thinking for Architects and Designers: Visualizing Context in Design*
 Krygier, J., 2005, *Making Maps: A Visual Guide to Map Design for GIS*, Guilford Press.
 MacEachren, A., 2004, *How Maps Work: Representation, Visualization, and Design*, Guilford Press.
 Monmonier, M., 1996, *How to Lie with Maps*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
 Tufte, E., 2001, *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, Graphics Press.

Class Topic / Work Schedule:

	TASKS	ASSIGNMENTS	GRADE	SOFTWARE
Week 1: Introduction 9/27/10	Course objectives Account management Data management	1-Problem Identification	5%	Windows ArcView
Week 2: Maps 10/4/10	Source identification Creating a project Layouts & Printing	2-Base Map	5%	ArcView
Week 3: Maps 10/11/10	Spatial data Basic mapping Export formats	3-Spatial Analysis	10%	ArcView
Week 4: Data 10/18/10	Tables Graphs Charts	4-Data Analysis	10%	Excel
Week 5: Data 10/25/10	Image formats Scanning Digital cameras	5-Image manipulation	10%	Photoshop
Week 6: Images 11/1/10	Import formats Layouts Printing and exporting	6-Presentation Board	20%	Illustrator
Week 7: Images 11/8/10	Page layouts Document formatting Printing	7-Desktop Publication		InDesign
Week 8: Printed Publications 11/15/10	Printed publications Page layouts Printing		20%	InDesign
Week 9: Electronic Publications 11/22/10	Electronic publication Creating a web page Hyperlinks	8-Web Site		Dreamweaver
Week 10: Visual Presentations 11/29/10	Navigation structure Web publishing		20%	Dreamweaver

