SYLLABUS
—
VA439/539

Envisioning Information

Instructor: Gözde Oral
Schedule: W 13:40-16:30
Spring 2021

Please note:
Due to the pandemic, the course will be conducted <u>online, synchronously</u> and on the scheduled day/time via Zoom.

Online classes can be a challenge for all so please prepare your setup in advance, as free from outside interruptions and disturbances as possible.

<u>Classes will not be recorded but attendance will be and is mandatory!</u>

Failure to show up for final project presentations, quizzes or exams without a valid excuse and not taking make-ups will result in the student receiving N/A as their final grade.

Student webcam must be on for the duration of the class.

Students must connect to the Zoom link for the course with their official Sabancı University e-mail account, and not utilize other email accounts.

AIM
This introductory course aims to familiarize students with the unique place of information design within the wider spectrum of visual communication.
It covers some of the basics of data visualization and encourages the investigation of creative ways of shaping content-based information through the use of graphic design elements and principles.

COURSE STRUCTURE
The focus of the course is on projects that involve various stages of visualizing information (such as data collection, editing and storytelling through infographic elements) accompanied with related instructor keynotes, weekly class critiques and student presentations. Relevant reading/written assignments and film viewings may be incorporated into the schedule accordingly.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?
The course is aimed at senior year and graduate level students who have a genuine interest in the topic and are preferably familiar with the use of Adobe programmes (look at the Assignments/Projects section.)

<u>Non-VACD applicants are advised to have taken at least one VACD design course and must have a GPA of 2.7 or more for consideration.</u>

INTENDED OUTCOME
Upon completion of this course students will be able to:
• better understand and appreciate the nature of visual communication
• visualize data to convey relations, structures, categories, hierarchies within a context
• create graphic representations using drawings, charts and graphs, maps, signs etc in explaining events, processes or phenomena

ASSIGNMENTS / PROJECTS
<u>Projects require the basic use of design software such as Adobe Illustrator (primary), Indesign and Photoshop (optional). Non-VACD students are expected to learn these applications on their own time, outside of class. They may schedule tutorials with the TA, if applicable.</u>

GRADING CRITERIA
Approximate distribution:
• 60% projects (2-3 projects)
• 20% assignments
• 20% attendance* & class participation

*Failing to attend more than 3 classes per semester without a legitimate excuse and/or health report will affect the student's final grade.

IMPORTANT
The syllabus is subject to change, shifts and adjustments by the instructor. Project and assignment topics TBA.

APPOINTMENTS
Personal appointments with the instructor must be scheduled in advance.