

## SYLLABUS Art 145: Vector Art & Illustration



**Summer Session II 2024**

**University of California Santa Cruz**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kathleen Deck ([kdeck@ucsc.edu](mailto:kdeck@ucsc.edu))

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment, please email me or DM on Discord to schedule

**SCHEDULE:** Online (Asynchronous lectures and content, weekly *optional* synchronous Zoom meetings)

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:**

Alyssa Castaneda [alccasta@ucsc.edu](mailto:alccasta@ucsc.edu)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals & creation techniques for vector art and illustration using industry standard software. Explore the fundamentals & application of vector art & illustration with the projects, demos, and text-based lectures that walk you step by step through the processes. With feedback through weekly discussions, students will be able to build upon their existing knowledge and produce a skilled portfolio of digital work by the end of the quarter. This course satisfies an art major requirement, prerequisites for the summer course are waived, open to non-art majors.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Use Adobe Illustrator to create original artwork
- Demonstrate the application of visual design elements and principles
- Gain an understanding of the variety of applications of vector art and illustration
- Use a variety of industry standard tools to explore methods of visual expression and the creative process
- Use an academic vocabulary to identify and analyze historical graphic design and contemporary vector art & illustration ideas and approaches

- Engage critically with peers' work in critique/discussion space to provide feedback for improvement
- Gain a professional practice in vector art & illustration and begin developing a portfolio

### **Nature of Assignments/Assessments:**

The course content included will not only provide you with the context behind what we are making, but also inspire your artistic practice and show you what is possible with the medium. The assignments give you the opportunity to apply what you have learned, therefore meeting the learning outcomes outlined above.

### **Course Schedule**

There are a total of 5 modules in this course (not including module #0).

Each module (except modules 0 & 5) contains:

- 👁️ 1 Lecture (Text-based)
- 🎥 1 Demo Video
- 📖 1 Quiz
- ★ ASSIGNMENTS
  - 🖌️ 2 Studies
  - 🖼️ 1 Project
- 📁 Illustrator File
- 🗣️ 1 Discussion

**Each module (lectures, demos, and assignments) needs to be completed by Fridays by 11:59pm.** The modules will not close, but the course moves very quickly, so it is important to stay up-to-date with the current module/deadlines at all times. There are quizzes that count towards your participation grade, that will help clarify key concepts and assignment requirements.

### **Schedule Breakdown**

#### **Week 1 (Module #0)- Welcome! (Due Wednesday of Week 1)**

- Syllabus
- Schedule
- Overview

#### **Week 1 (Module #1)- Introduction & Fundamentals (Due Friday of Week 1)**

- Lecture: Why Vector?

- Studies: Shapes & Shape Builder Tool
- Project: Radial Composition

### **Week 2 (Module #2)- Color & Composition**

- Lecture: Color, Gradients, and Composition
- Studies: Color Palette & Gradients
- Project: Gradient Landscape

### **Week 3 (Module #3)- Repetition & Movement**

- Lecture: Op Art, Kinetic Art, and Contemporary Interpretations including AI & Op Art
- Studies: Alignment Distribution & Clipping Mask
- Project: Dual Tone Op Art

### **Week 4 (Module #4)- Illustration & Pattern**

- Lecture: Pop Art Icons & Contemporary Artists
- Studies: Comic Shapes & Pattern
- Project: In-Progress version of Pop Art Portrait (Project 5)

### **Week 5 (Module #5)- Vector Art Beyond**

- Lecture: Real-world Applications of Vector Art, Exporting & Course Review
- Final Assignments: Pop Art Portrait & Cumulative Portfolio

### **Final Exam:**

- This course does not include a final exam, instead, there is a final assignment (Cumulative Portfolio) that will be submitted as your final assignment which is worth 6% of your final grade.

### **Online Requirements:**

This is an online course and we will be using Canvas LMS for all course components.

- You are required to upload studies and assignments to the Canvas course site by the end of the day on the listed due date.
  - Assignments (studies and project for modules) due Fridays at 11:59pm
  - Discussion Posts due Fridays 11:59pm, Replies are due Mondays 11:59pm
- Quizzes and Discussions will be factored into your final grade
- Late work can be accepted for full credit with documented mitigating circumstances that have been discussed with the instructor or the TA *prior* to the due date.
- Work produced in other courses or by other parties cannot be submitted for evaluation.
- Original Illustrator (.AI) file format (keep all layers visible & objects not expanded) are required to be submitted with each project. These files should be retained by you until after final grades have been posted.
- Every element of the assignments for this course must be originally created 100% produced by you in Illustrator. No auto-trace or image-trace processes are permitted,

and pre-existing stock vector art, pattern swatches, or vector graphics cannot be used, even as a starting point.

## **Materials + Technology Requirements**

### **Materials:**

- Laptop or Desktop Computer with trackpad or mouse

### **Technology Requirements:**

- Computer ([with minimum requirements for running Adobe Creative Cloud + Illustrator](#))
- Data storage sufficient for creating & storing files (Minimum 10GB Free Disk Space)
- A reliable internet connection
- Canvas: All assignments will be submitted via Canvas. *\*\*Use Canvas with Google Chrome on desktop for best experience\*\**

**Accommodations:** Please notify me (kdeck@ucsc.edu) of DRC accommodations at the beginning of quarter/before assignments are due so that the necessary accommodation(s) can be arranged within the time required.

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me by email, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. I would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu).

### **Student hours for class:**

This is a 5-unit course, therefore requiring that students spend 15 hours per week combined classroom and independent work (1 credit=3 hours). This will break down as follows: 1 Lecture per week = 2 hours total; 1 discussion board and additional optional meetings per week = 3 hours total. Completion of assignments independently & technical learning = 10 hours.

### **Grading:**

- You will receive formative evaluations throughout the term for studies and assignments completed.

- You will turn in a portfolio of work for a formal summative evaluation at the end of the course.
- Your willingness to engage, collaborate with, and assist fellow classmates counts as does your willingness to seek help, integrate feedback, and take direction.
- Late submissions will be accepted with a reduction in grade for tardiness (see late policy).

### **Late Policy:**

0.5 points removed per day late, with a 50% maximum deduction. If alternative arrangements are made prior to the due date with the instructor or TA, students with accommodations/documented/excused circumstances will not be subjected to deductions. All assignments need to be submitted by 8/30/24 in order to receive evaluation.

### **Evaluation/Grade Breakdown:**

- Assignments (Studies +Projects) 65%
- Quizzes 10%
- Discussions 20%
- Portfolio Total 6%
- Extra Credit 1%

### **Breakdown:**

A = Credit for superior work that shows a fine degree of individual insight, application, and originality beyond mere absorption of the assigned work. Effective, active participation in class critiques & discussions and studio practices.

B = Credit for very good work done with intelligence, understanding, thoroughness, and industry. Good participation in class critiques, discussions, and studio practices. Convincing completion of all of the assignments.

C = Credit for work of average or irregular quality. Satisfactory completion of all of the assignments.

D = Credit for weak work of barely passing quality. Not all of the assignments completed and/or poor participation in critiques/discussions.

F = No credit; failure to produce work of passing quality.

### **University Grading System:**

A+ (4.0) = 97-100

A (4.0) = 96-94

A- (3.7) = 93-90

B+ (3.3) = 89-87

B (3.0) = 86-84

B- (2.7) = 83-80

C+ (2.3) = 79-77

C (2.0) = 76-74  
C- (1.7) = 73-70  
D+ (1.3) = 69-67  
D (1.0) = 66-64  
D- (.7) = 63-60  
F (0)

**Respectful Communication:**

This class requires written and verbal communication with peers, the teaching assistants, and the instructor. In all forms and methods of communication, please be sure to use respectful language. Hate speech, violent or aggressive language, bullying or trolling will not be tolerated. When communicating with each other, do not make any assumptions about another's identity or experience.

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UC Santa Cruz and myself are committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. At this time, I would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at [831-459-2089](tel:831-459-2089) or by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu)

**INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT** It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and with all perspectives feel included and are able to learn and achieve their goals in this course. The diversity that all students bring to this class is a resource, strength, and benefit to us all. It is my intent to bring to class materials and activities that embrace a diversity of perspectives, experiences, and positions. Your suggestions for making this learning community as inclusive as possible are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know if you identify ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. If any of our class meetings conflict with your religious or cultural events, please let me know so that we can work together to make alternative arrangements.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS** will be accepted with a reduction in grade for lateness (Please notify me of DRC accommodations before assignments are due so that we can agree on a manageable accommodation.) See full late policy above.

In this class we abide by the UCSC Principles of Community, so please familiarize yourself with these important principles. <https://www.ucsc.edu/about/principles-community.html>

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY** Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty. Acts of academic misconduct during the course, including plagiarism, can and usually do result in failure of the course, at the sole discretion of the instructor of record. Your case will be reported to the College Provost as per the Academic Integrity guidelines found on the web at: [https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic\\_misconduct](https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct)

COURSE SURVEYS (Previously called evaluations) for faculty will be available online for students to complete towards the end of quarter. You will be sent emails to your @ucsc.edu email from the course survey system to complete your evaluations online for all of your classes. Please be thoughtful in your responses, as we take these evaluations seriously. Course surveys help faculty consider ways to improve instruction and are completely confidential.

GRAPHIC CONTENT: In Art courses you will often be assigned images, films or other material that could contain difficult ideas, uncomfortable language, or graphic depictions of sex or violence. You will be asked to treat these portrayals critically, to consider what is being expressed by the maker, or to examine the potential social impact, and to evaluate the works in a given context. Instructors are always happy to speak with you about your work, and might direct you to CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) at 831-459-2628 or the Disability Resource Center (drc@ucsc.edu or 831-459-2089) should you need additional support in order to do your best work.

TITLE IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the Campus Advocacy Resources & Education (CARE) Office by calling (831) 502-2273. In addition, Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide confidential counseling support, (831) 459-2628. You can also report gender discrimination directly to the University's Title IX Office, (831) 459-2462. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD, (831) 459-2231 ext. 1. For emergencies call 911. Faculty and Teaching Assistants are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Office should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS: The art department has a list of many resources on campus available to students. Please take a look at these to see what is available for you.  
<https://art.ucsc.edu/links-to-student-resources>