LMC3705 SYLLABUS

PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION DESIGN

Spring 2021 (3 Credits)

Meetings: M/W 12:30 - 1:45 PM

Monday [Asynchronous Meetings] / Wednesday [Synchronous Meetings]

Instructor	Email	Office Hours & Location
Yanni Loukissas, PhD	yanni.loukissas@lmc.gatech.edu	Online, by appointment

In a data-driven society, what does it mean to design for information?

Today, doing information design often means making data accessible and interpretable to different audiences. Designers cannot assume the transparency of data. Instead, they should approach unfamiliar data sets with an awareness that data are created by humans and their dutiful machines, at a time, in a place, with the instruments at hand, for audiences that are conditioned to receive them. All data are local. Although the term "data set" implies something discrete, complete, and portable, it is none of those things. In this course, you will learn how to engage data settings rather than simply data sets. Through a combination of design and inquiry into the knowledge systems behind data, you will practice presenting data both effectively and ethically.

OBJECTIVE: To lay a foundation for creating and analyzing representations of data

COVID-19 Accommodations
The Spring 2021 version of this course is designed to be run remotely because of the risks related to meeting in person during the COVID-19 pandemic. To fully participate, you will need regular access to a high-speed internet connection. If that is not possible for you, please reach out to me so we can assess your situation. We must all acknowledge that this will not be a "normal" semester. And although we should strive to create a stimulating and rewarding learning environment, complications are bound to arise. Dealing with them will require flexibility and mutual trust. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if there is anything else you would like to discuss before the beginning of the course or at some later point.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After taking this course you should be able to do the following:

- Acquire and explore existing data using digital media.
- Create effective and compelling information designs using digital media.
- Contribute to the development of new genres and forms of digital media.

- Create digital artifacts with an awareness of history, audience, and context.
- Appreciate and evaluate future trends in the development of digital media.
- Be able to work effectively in teams to accomplish a common goal.

ASSIGNMENTS

The purpose of assignments is to give you regular, repeated practice exercising the course goals. There are several types of assignments in this course: readings (R), case studies (C), exercises (E), and a final project (F).

Readings

Regular readings will structure the theoretical portion of the course. All reading selections listed on the syllabus are tentative. Additional readings may be assigned as supporting material along with assignments.

Case Studies

You will be asked to search for, analyze, and share examples of different information design techniques.

Exercises

In order to help you practice with the techniques we discuss in class, there will be multiple hands-on exercises throughout the term. Instructions will be provided for each.

Final Project

There will be a culminating group project, in which you will be asked to address the central question posed by this course: in a data-driven society, what does it mean to design effective representations of information?

Grading
Case studies and exercises will be graded according to a contract model. This means that if you complete all parts of the assignment, you will get an A. Points will be deducted only if you are missing components of the assignment. Class participation is strongly encouraged, but not graded. The final project will be given a numerical grade, following a rubric distributed with the assignment. Your final grade for the class will be calculated as follows:

10% Reading Responses
20% Case Studies
50% Exercises
20% Final Project (group project)

Deadlines
All assignments will include submission instructions and a due date. Late submissions will be penalized one letter grade (%10). All assignments (with the exception of the final project) will be accepted up until the last day of class. Failure to complete a number of reading responses, case studies, exercises, or the final project may be grounds for a failing grade.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

Attendance
Class will be held online using Microsoft message:%3Cc6b1f5b7-e65a-43ce-91c7-20 e522a64bb4@MW2NAM12FT044.eop-nam 12.prod.protection.outlook.com%3ETeams. You can join the LMC 3705 Team here. Students are encouraged to attend and actively participate in all classes.

Readings and Materials
For parts of the course, we will be using a textbook: Meirelles, Isabel. 2013. *Design for Information.* It is is available for free online via the Georgia Tech library: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/gatech /detail.action?docID=3399922&pq-origsite= primo

Other readings will be distributed electronically via Canvas. Check the "files" tab. Additional materials for assignments will be distributed with the instructions on Canvas. You will need your own laptop computer (Windows or Mac).

Academic Integrity
Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit: http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/hono r-code/ or http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/

Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the

course. This is not only the uncredited copying of text from another's work but also copying ideas or code from other digital artifacts. However, adaptation of code samples (provided or found online) is not necessarily plagiarism, as long as it is appropriately credited. Having said that, students are encouraged to share and critique each other's work. You are allowed and encouraged to work together with other students, but collaboration is only permitted on group projects. On all other assignments, you are expected to complete and turn in your own work. Students may not submit work on another's behalf. Unauthorized use of any previous semester course materials is prohibited. Violating these terms will be considered a direct violation of academic policy and will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

It is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and

the student body. See http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/ for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek.

Debate, Diversity, and Respect

In this class, we will present and discuss a diversity of perspectives. Although you may not always agree with others' perspectives, you are required to be respectful of others' values and beliefs. Repeated inappropriate or abusive comments and/or behavior will be cause for disciplinary action. If you feel that your perspectives are being ignored or slighted, or you in anyway feel uncomfortable in the classroom, please contact me immediately.

The Communication Center

Georgia Tech's Naugle CommLab is located in Clough Commons, Suite 447. It is an excellent resource for all students (undergraduate or graduate) who want help with a communication-related project, from their multimodal assignments for English 1101 and English 1102 to graduate school applications, from engineering and science reports to oral presentations, from storyboards for videos to poster designs, from grant proposals to job cover letters and resumes. The center itself is physically located in Clough; for the safety of our staff and students during this pandemic many of our consultations will be online (students who require an in-person consultation

should email commlab@gatech.edu to schedule). The Center provides both synchronous (via BlueJeans) and asynchronous consultations with peer (usually upper-division undergraduate) and professional (postdoctoral) consultants who are each uniquely qualified to provide students with feedback on their projects. For more information or to make an appointment, please visit the Center's webpage at http://commlab.gatech.edu.

ASSIGNMENTS

C1 = Case Studies 1 Spatial Structures
C2 = Case Studies 2 Temporal Structures
C3 = Case Studies 3 Spatio-Temporal Structures

E1 = Exercise 1 - Experience Mapping
E2 = Exercise 2 - Composite Information Map
E3 = Exercise 3 - Recontextualizing Data
E4 = Exercise 4 - Data Use Guide
      E4.1 = Data Standards
      E4.2 = Data Biographies
      E4.3 = Unfolding Data

P = Final Project - Design an "Open Data Setting"

SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY / THEME	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1	**Introduction**		
Jan 18	Monday No Meeting (MLK Day)		
Jan 20	Wednesday [Synchronous]	Syllabus	
Week 2	**Designing for Information**		

Jan 25	Monday [Synchronous]	Meirelles, Isabel. 2013. *Design for Information* (Introduction)	E1 Assigned
Jan 27	Wednesday [Asynchronous]	Robert W. Karrow, Jr., Introduction to James R. Ackerman & Robert W. Karrow, Jr., Eds., *Maps: Finding Our Place in the World*	C1 Assigned
Week 3	**Spatial Information**		
Feb 1	Monday [Asynchronous]		E1 Working Session
Feb 3	Wednesday [Synchronous]		E1 Due E2 Assigned
Week 4	**Temporal Information**		
Feb 8	Monday		C1 Working Session
Feb 10	Wednesday [Synchronous]	Meirelles, Isabel. 2013. *Design for Information* (Chapter 4 – Spatial Structures)	C1 Due C2 Assigned
Week 5	**Spatio-Temporal Information**		
Feb 15	Monday [Asynchronous]		E2 Working Session
Feb 17	Wednesday [Synchronous]		E2 Due E3 Assigned
Week 6	**Recontextualizing Data**		
Feb 22	Monday [Asynchronous]		C2 Working Session
Feb 24	Wednesday [Synchronous]	Meirelles, Isabel. 2013. *Design for Information* (Chapter	C2 Due C3 Assigned

			3 - Temporal Structures)
Week 7	**Data Standards**		
Mar 1	Monday [Asynchronous]		E3 Working Session
Mar 3	Wednesday [Synchronous]		E3 Due E4 Assigned
Week 8	**Data Biographies**		
Mar 8	Monday [Asynchronous]		C3 Working Session
Mar 10	Wednesday [Synchronous]	Meirelles, Isabel. 2013. *Design for Information* (Chapter 5 Spatio-Temporal Structures)	C3 Due
Week 9	**Unfolding Data**		
Mar 15	Monday [Asynchronous]		E4 Working Session
Mar 17	Wednesday [Synchronous]		E4 Working Session
Week 10	**Data Use Guides**		
Mar 22	Monday [Synchronous]		E4 Working Session
Mar 24	Mid Semester Break		
Week 11	**Final Project Introduced**		
Mar 29	Monday [Synchronous]		E4 Working Session
Mar 31	Wednesday [Asynchronous]		E4 Due F Introduced
Week 12	**Final Project Proposal**		
Apr 5	Monday [Synchronous]		F Working Session

Apr 7	Wednesday [Asynchronous]	F Proposal Due
Week 13	**Individual Meetings**	
Apr 12	Monday [Asynchronous]	F Working Session
Apr 14	Wednesday [Asynchronous]	F Early Draft Due
Week 14	**Preliminary Review**	
Apr 19	Monday [Synchronous]	F Draft Presentation
Apr 21	Wednesday [Synchronous]	F Draft Presentation
Week 15	**Reflections**	
Apr 26	Monday [Synchronous]	Reflection Due
TBD	**[Synchronous]**	P Final Review