

Syllabus: Adobe Illustrator

Continuing Education-SUM'11

CE*2407 Adobe Illustrator

10 Mondays, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Jun 6 – Aug 15

Sarah Gager Lochrie, sarah@sarahgager.com

Course Description

Turn out professional-looking graphics for web or print with Adobe Illustrator software. Through practical exercises, become fluent in the premier program for line art, logos, vector graphics and quick page layout as well as tricks and time efficient techniques to keep work clean and professional.

Course Prerequisite: CE 1403 or 1404 Adobe Creative Suite, or equivalent experience.

Course Objective

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with Adobe Illustrator. We will cover, in depth, all the basics which will allow you to start making professional looking graphics immediately. My classroom is a collaborative environment. I encourage you to ask questions and give feedback. My main goal is to give you enough experience in Adobe Illustrator that you will leave my class confident in your ability to create any type of art /design you desire.

Course Assessment

Students will be assessed on attendance, how well they understand the material, how able they are to ask questions using the vocabulary of the program, work independently and produce at least 2 final projects. Final project options are (but not limit to): business card, CD covers, Cartoon Character, web layout, etc.

Course Materials: USB flash drive (PC & MAC compatible) 4G minimum

FTP Server Instructions

You will need to download lesson files from my FTP server by:

- opening a new web browser page
- typing in ftp://uarts@catmath.com@catmath.com/
- password: uarts01
- clicking on the lessons folder
- "right clicking" or control clicking and choosing "save file as" to save to your flash drive

**all files being provided are the property of Sarah Lochrie/www.sarahgager.com and are not to be reused, repurposed or duplicated in anyway

Session 1

6.6.11

Why Adobe Illustrator?

Adobe Illustrator's greatest difference to Adobe Photoshop, and most important difference, is that Illustrator files are **always** scalable and edit-able. Adobe Illustrator produced cross media design that can be used in print, digital or hand held devices. If you're not editing a photograph, Illustrator is where you'll start most any project (even this syllabus was created in Illustrator).

Show Illustrator samples.

What are Vector Graphics?

Illustrator uses vector graphics, Photoshop uses pixels, bitmaps or rasters. Photoshop's resolution is referred to as dpi (dots per inch) or more accurately ppi (pixels per inch). Resolution is a grid of squares, so a file with 300ppi would be considered high resolution meaning it has a large number of squares (pixels) within a 1"x1" square (90,000 to be exact). A file with 10ppi would be considered low resolution meaning it has a small number of squares (pixels) within a 1"x1" square. If you enlarge a low resolution file, pixels are not added to the file, they get larger. As a result your art work will show jagged edges. Illustrator sees the grid from a mathematical perspective and uses it as coordinates. It is able to map anchor points and connect the anchor points with a path. Illustrator will not produce jagged edges because the paths are smooth. If you enlarge a graphic, Illustrator just adjusts the position of the anchor point on the grid so your graphics stay clean and sharp.

Meta Data:

Meta data is information about your file that always stays with the file. It can be copyright information, technical info about images in the file or just key words you assign to your work so that you will be able to search for it later.

File: file info: description

Selection Tools:

There are three main selection tools:

 **Selection Tool** (quick key: V) selects entire groups

 **Direct Selection Tool** (quick key: A) selects individual object or individual anchor point

 **Group Selection Tool** (located behind the direct selection tool) selects groups within groups

Working with the selection tools:

Selection tool: click on OR click and drag to select object OR double click on an object in a group to isolate

Direct selection tool: click on point or click in center of object

Group selection tool: click object once to select, click again to select the group it is in, click again etc.

*groups within groups are called *nesting groups*

⌘A: selects all

Holding down shift while clicking on an object will select multiple objects.

Holding down shift while clicking on objects already selected, will deselect the object.

Magic Wand

The magic wand selects objects based off of their common attributes. You can tell the magic wand how similar you want things to be by setting the tolerance. The lower the tolerance, the more similar the objects will be. The higher the tolerance the similarities will be much broader.

Drawing with Path Primitives:

Rectangle Tool (quick key: M)

Ellipse Too (quick key: L)

Review all other primitive paths apply stroke and fill.

Work with align dialogue box (Window: Align)

Work with pathfinder dialog box (Window: Pathfinder)

Work with grid and snap to grid (View: Snap to Grid)

Drawing with the Pen Tool:

Anchor points are connected by paths. We do not draw paths, they are created between the anchor points to connect them.

Drawing straight paths with the Pen tool: (quick key: P)

Drawing curved paths with the Pen tool

Drawing free form paths with the Pencil tool: (quick key: N)

Smoothing and erasing paths

Editing anchor points

Joining and averaging paths - Object: Path: Join (quick key: ⌘J) - Object: Path: Average (quick key: ⌘⇧J)

Simplifying paths

Using Offset Path

Cleaning up errant paths

Session 2

6.13.11

Drawing in Illustrator

Working with outside images

Applying fill and stroke

Using the eye dropper

Working with pantone chips

Working with the appearance dialogue box

Compound paths and building shapes, drawing modes

Session 3

6.20.11

Type & Type Tools

There are two types of type in Illustrator; *Point Text Objects* and *Area Type Objects*, there is also something called Type on a Path but it is very similar to a Point Text Object.

Point Text Object (quick key: T): creates *continuous text*, in other words it has no line breaks

Area Type Objects (quick key: T + drag): *creates a text box* which makes line breaks

Character Settings

Paragraph Settings

Text Threads

Setting text on open paths

Setting text on closed paths

Text to paths

In Class: build a logo

Session 4

6.27.11

Appearance & Fill

Through the *Appearance Panel* you are able to target *individual attributes*.

Fill and Stroke

Making more than one stroke

Changing stroke color and weight through the appearance panel

Changing stacking order through the appearance panel

Color dialogue box (three locations)

Gradients

Pattern fills

Applying pattern fill to a stroke

In Class: build a pattern fill

Session 5

7.11.11

Grouping Objects

Grouping object lets you quickly move and edit individual object as one object.

To select multiple objects use (⇧ click)

To group use (⌘G)

To isolate a group within a group (called a nested group) double click. To get back to regular mode, double click on an empty section of the art board, hit the escape key or use the "crumb" trail at the top of your document.

Applying Attributes to a Group

When you group objects, Illustrator treats those graphics as if you have put them "into a container". You are able to then add effects and attributes to the "container" or group of objects.

Adding a drop shadow effect to a group

Using path finder effects in the appearance panel to effect a group

Layers

You may be familiar with layers and how Photoshop uses them. In Illustrator, layers are used in a much different way, they let you view every single object in your document as a separate piece of art. Creating layers can be very important when creating a file you are planning to export it to a different program. For example you are now able to export Illustrator layers into Flash as frames.

Layers can show you the objects with in each layer.

You are able to create layers as you go.

Read only layers

Art Boards

An art board is what Illustrator refers to as a page. Illustrator will print whatever is visible on a page. Artboards can be any size or orientation and can all live in one document together.

Creating artboards through a new document.

Modifying artboards through the tool bar.

Modifying artboards through the artboards dialogue box.

Using smart guides to easily align artboards.

Transforming and Positioning Art

Moving and copying artwork

Scaling or resizing artwork

Rotating artwork

Reflecting and skewing artwork

Using the Free Transform tool

Repeating transformations

Performing individual transforms across multiple objects

Aligning objects and groups precisely

Distributing objects and spaces between objects

Working with images

Placing pixel-based content into Illustrator

placing a link (file: place, choose link option)
Imbedding an image (file: place, choose embed option)

*you can only apply transformations to an image in Illustrator but can NOT change pixels

Managing images with the Links panel

- relink
- go to link
- update link
- original

Converting pixels to paths with Live Trace

- blur to get a cleaner trace
- low rez files work best

Making Live Trace adjustments

- live trace default, threshold
- tracing options dialogue box

Controlling colors in Live Trace

- modifying color by outputting color to swatches
- working with preestablished swatches

Using Photoshop and Live Trace together

- live trace a file, then modify in Photoshop

Session 6

7.18.11

Working Efficiently with Symbols

Symbols can define anything but linked images. A symbol lives in the symbol dialogue box and therefore does not increase the size of your file-because you are not copying and pasting the vectors over and over again, the vector image lives in the symbol box and you only use a "reference" or "instance" on your artboard

Managing repeating artwork with symbols

Modifying and replacing symbol instances

Using the Symbol Sprayer tool

- area of influence

- [] increase or decrease the size of sprayer
- click and drag

Working with Masks

Cropping photographs

Clipping artwork with masks

Defining masks with soft edges

Printing, Saving, and Exporting

Printing your Illustrator document

Saving your Illustrator document

Creating PDF files for clients and printers

PDF/x-1a:2001 best option for printers, flattens transparencies at a high rez & imbeds fonts

Smallest size file: great for sending to client, especially ones who are not computer savvy

Exporting Illustrator files for use in Microsoft Office

file: save for Microsoft Office

Exporting Illustrator files for use in Photoshop

file: export: format: Photoshop (psd)

Exporting artwork for use on the web

make one artboard active

file: save for web and devices

Exporting high-resolution raster files

file: export: tiff

In Class: create a brochure with masks and images and export for the printer and for the client

Session 7

7.25.11

Choosing Illustrator for Web and Interactive Design

Art work can be re purposed for any screen

Integrates easily with other programs

Using the Web document profile

file: new: web document profile

review advanced settings (preview mode: turn on pixel)

Setting up an Entire Web Site

use artboards and symbols to easily make updates

Setting up mobile content with Adobe Device Center

file: new: device central

in create work space, content type and program type

browse, adobe certified (left hand side)

drag profile into test devices

BITMAP to see what type of files are compatible

create button: now the artboard is set up for your specific device and you know what file type it supports so you know what to export your graphics as

Understanding Web-Safe Colors

always RGB

dithering tries to mix colors to get the color that isn't web safe (usually looks bad)
window: swatch library: web
because handsets etc are quickly updating viewing technology, web safe colors are quickly becoming obsolete

Using Recolor Art to convert art to web-safe colors
window: color panel to check if web-safe
select art, color wheel at top: recolor artwork
button: limits the color group to colors in a swatch library
pop up menu: web:

Using the Save for Web and Devices
file: save for web and devices (review)v

Session 8

8.1.11

Personal Project

Session 9

8.8.11

Personal Project

Session 10

8.15.11

Personal Project