

Winter 08: 80 Works for Designers

12/24/08

David Sherwin | dksherwin@msn.com | 206-992-3939

Non-credit class | In-class hours: 33 | Length of course: 11 weeks

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor / portfolio review

Course description: 80 Works for Designers is an intensive 11-week course for designers looking to make the leap from a design education into a fast-paced, professional design practice. Course participants will take part in eight conceptual projects a week — both in collaborative class exercises and through take-home assignments — under constraints that match the pace of a professional creative agency. As a result of this time compression, course participants will quickly discover where their innate talents exist as a designer, and they'll be guided by other students and their instructor in order to further tap those gifts.

Course outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will have learned:

- How to reach a breadth of innovative design solutions, in various media, more quickly
- A deeper understanding of the complementary skill of learning how to properly frame a design problem before it can be solved (and sold to a client)
- An exploration of the range of one's talent by attempting projects along the full continuum of design disciplines, from the bread and butter of branding and collateral to the wild world of advertising to the user-centered practices of creating interactive projects, with brief forays into wayfinding, editorial design, video and motion graphics, and more.

Ideally, students will leave the class with a series of strong, outside-the-box concepts that can be refined post-class into portfolio material.

Methods of presentation:

- In-class individual and group activities
- Take-home individual and group assignments

Methods of evaluation:

- Studio group critiques for each assignment
- Self evaluation
- Written evaluation from instructor

ADA Confirmation: (Americans With Disabilities Act) If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. I also urge you to make use of the Counselor/Disability Support Services. Contact Alfred M. Souma M.A., Tel 206-587 x 4169 or asouma@sccd.ctc.edu.

Weekly class structure:

In class, students will take part in the following activities each week:

1. A group critique of all take-home assignments from the previous week, focused on the best attributes of each design.
2. Participation in 4 in-class exercises, both as individuals and as groups
3. Receipt of 4 take-home assignment descriptions, and questions answered on how those assignments may be fulfilled over the following week. Class and take-home assignments will be evenly distributed among the disciplines of branding, advertising, interactive, wayfinding, editorial design, and motion graphics. However, the overall arc of assignment types will begin in readdressing fundamentals (2 weeks), focusing on individual projects (3 weeks), taking part in group projects (3 weeks), and bringing it together in role-played, client-facing assignments (2 weeks).