

TCH030: Image Design and Editing (Elective)

formerly Digital Photography and Graphics

Course Overview

This is the perfect course for anyone who wants to create compelling, professional looking graphic designs and photos. Students learn the basics of composition, color, and layout before moving on to technical topics like working with layers and masks, adding special effects, and effectively using typefaces to create visual impact. At the end of this course, students will have a variety of original projects for their graphic design portfolio.

Course Length: One semester

Materials:

Software: GIMP (free download)

System Requirements: Microsoft Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Mac OS X operating system; 400 MHz or faster processor; 512 MB of memory (RAM); at least 2 GB of available hard drive space

Prerequisites: None

Course Outline

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Students learn how to navigate the course and turn in assignments. They set up a course folder and download and install software and course resources.

- ◆ Start the Course
- ◆ Set Up Your Computer
- ◆ Set Up a Browser and Install 7-Zip
- ◆ Download Resources and Zip Assignments

Project 1: Crop and Colorize a Photo

Students crop, optimize, and colorize an image in GIMP. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: cropping, pixels, zooming, resolution, image optimization, saving, black and white adjustment, tint, hue, and saturation. Students practice their new skills with a graded project.

- ◆ Crop and Zoom
- ◆ Colorize

Project 2: Trace a Photo

Students learn to add a new layer, change the brush type and color, trace a photo, fill in an outline's color, and add a colorful background with the paint bucket tool. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: layers, brush tool, basic brushes, tracing, brush size, foreground color, color picker dialog box, hiding layers, and paint bucket tool. Students practice their new skills with a graded project and take a quiz on the content in lessons 1 and 2.

- ◆ Trace a Photo
- ◆ Add Color to the Outline

Project 3: Draw without Tracing

Students draw a banana, select it with the magic wand tool, and refine the edge with the eraser tool. They draw and color an apple and an orange, add detail, decorate with the special effect brush, and design a new brush. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: selection, magic wand tool, expand selection, the [and] keys, eyedropper tool, eraser tool, lock transparent pixels, reordering layers, move tool, brush presets, designing a brush, rectangular marquee tool. Students practice their new skills with a graded project.

- ◆ Draw a Banana
- ◆ Draw an Apple and Orange
- ◆ Make Your Own Brush

Project 4: Use Filters to Make a Poster

Students crop a background layer and shrink an image. They pick a filter from the filter gallery, and add multiple filters. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: document size, tabs, copy, paste, scale, bounding box, filter gallery, primary colors, secondary colors, and colors in design. Students practice their new skills with a graded project and take a quiz on the content in lessons 3 and 4.

- ◆ Lay Out a Poster
- ◆ Filter the Poster

Project 5: Make a Collage

Students learn to open multiple images at once, and to use free transform to arrange images. They learn to add a stroke effect and a drop shadow to an image, and to append patterns to the pattern gallery. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: elliptical marquee tool, free transform, layer effects, layer styles, stroke, drop shadow, multiply, preset manager, patterns, and unlocking. Students practice their new skills with a graded project.

- ◆ Crop and Arrange Images
- ◆ Add Style

Project 6: Make a Single-Panel Comic

Students remove the background around an image, append, add, and rename talk bubble shapes, refine the talk bubble with the direct selection tool, and add a caption. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: options bar, custom shape tool, talk bubbles, path, direct selection tool, horizontal type tool, font types and usage, and text alignment. Students practice their new skills with a graded project and take a quiz on the content in lessons 5 and 6.

- ◆ Combine Foreground and Background
- ◆ Add a Talk Bubble

Project 7: Mask an Image

Students duplicate a layer, create a mask layer, and blur the background. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: masks, duplicate layer, quick selection tool, add to and subtract from selection, layer masks, and blur. Students practice their new skills with a graded project.

- ◆ Mask an Image

Project 8: Develop Your Selection Skills

Students practice with the lasso tools, fix the selection edges with the quick mask mode, and change the selection color with a layer mask. They draw straight lines, anchor points, and curves with the pen tool, and edit the path's shape. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: lasso tool, quick mask mode, nondestructive editing, adjustment layers, polygonal lasso tool, magnetic lasso tool, pen tool, anchor points, curve handles, add and delete anchor point tools. Students practice their new skills with a graded project and take a quiz on the content in lessons 7 and 8.

- ◆ Free Select a Leaf
- ◆ Free Select More Leaves
- ◆ Make Paths into Selections
- ◆ Color the Rest of the Leaves

Project 9: Make a One-Word Graphic

Students learn to skew and warp a word, resize images inside words, expand and feather a mask, add a stroke layer style, and add an outer glow to the word. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: transform, skew, warp, layer thumbnails, link/unlink, feather, stroke, and outer glow. Students practice their new skills with a graded project.

- ◆ Type and Shape a Word
- ◆ Add an Image to a Word
- ◆ Add More Style

Project 10: Make an Ad

Students add a gradient and headline text, append all shapes, and customize a shape with color and style. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: illusion of depth, gradient, and gradient tool. Students practice their new skills with a graded project and take a quiz on the content in lessons 9 and 10.

- ◆ Masks and Gradients
- ◆ Text and Shapes

Project 11: Create a Planet

Students add depth to a circle, add and modify a texture, spherize the texture, add stars using the Noise Filter, make the stars into a milky way using Difference Clouds, add space gas, and make the planet glow. They learn the following terms, tools, and skills: Ellipse Tool, inner shadow, texture, spherize, noise, difference clouds, lens flare. Students practice their new skills with a graded project.

- ◆ Draw a Circle
- ◆ Finish the Planet

Project 12: Reflect an Image

Students flip an image, make an image look watery, ripple the water, and add a shore to the water's edge. Students practice their new skills with a graded project and take a quiz on the content in lessons 11 and 12.

- ◆ Reflect an Image