



Silvia Minguzzi
347 251 0265
info@silviaminguzzi.com
silviaminguzzi.com

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

I have been teaching Fundamentals of Graphic Design at Colorado State University since 2013 and I found it an incredibly enriching experience.

This course, targeted to students in their second and third year in the ART program, explores applications of graphic forms that can communicate and express meaning more directly and universally than words or imagery. Graphic forms can be used to reinforce the meaning of words and imagery. Students learn how to approach different software platforms as well as how to solve their first design problems, in a hands-on environment where they learn the design process along the way. We study colors, lines, edges, shapes, figures, relation and composition. My background in communication studies helps me teaching how to communicate information with form, create meaning, deliver a message and express ideas.

My classes combine lectures and in class exercises, with and without the use of computers. I believe that background readings, discussion and critiques are as important as field trips to design studios and printing companies in order for the students to develop their creative personality while at the same time understanding basic concepts and the practical uses of design.

I particularly value interdisciplinary so I always tailor the assignments where my students are required to push the boundaries of strict graphic design and need to be able to work with laser cutters, cnc milling machines, collaborate with fibers studios or design a simple 3D object. I want them to understand that the job of a designer is to be able to apply his/hers creativity to multiple platforms and tools and methods; in general being able to have multiple voices and master the basic tools to become a stronger designer in the future.

I like to create an interactive learning environment where students feel free to work individually or in groups. I make special efforts in trying to involve the students in each critique and discussion, and facilitate an inclusive atmosphere where each student feels that everyone else values his/her voice and looks forward to hear his/her opinion. For this reason, I do not limit discussion to formal critiques, but I especially push students to learn from each other when discussing readings before taking on a project. At the same time, I also teach my students that, when they will go out in the job market to work as designers, meeting deadlines will matter greatly for their clients. Hence, I try to strike a balance between facilitating creativity while at the same time enforcing discipline with respect to deadlines.

Yet, I understand that not all of my students will work as designers in corporate environments. Therefore, I like to convey a sensibility to the artistic elements of design, with the ultimate goal of providing my students with skills they can use both as artists and in the business world.