



CSGD 306 ILLUSTRATOR I

SEP 17–DEC 10, 2015 | 1515 MT. ROYAL, ROOM 208 | THURSDAY 6:00p–9:45p

Instructor: Randy Morgan – morgan@studioix.com – 410-961-1969

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Illustrator I provides students with a basic working knowledge of Adobe® Illustrator®. Subjects covered include drawing, usage of bézier curves and basic color, gradients and typographic effects. Students will learn how Illustrator files are exported and used in other applications such as Photoshop and InDesign. **Adobe Illustrator new features and best practices** will be discussed, investigated and utilized throughout this course.

Note: A basic knowledge of computers is required for all digital classes. Students are required to bring a USB or Flash drive to class.

Academic Goals

Students will achieve a working knowledge in both the technical and aesthetic areas of the vector illustration process, from concept to final presentation.

Course Objectives

1. To reinforce and expand upon basic design concepts & creative techniques.
2. To explore the **creative relationship** between computer hardware, software & you.
3. To develop and enhance your **creative workflow**: concept, design & production, output & presentation, storage and promotion.
4. To **create unique illustrations** for distribution via print & digital media.
5. To learn **methods of working efficiently** with digital imaging hardware & software.

Course Requirements

- Students are expected to have all required materials for this course (see sidebar at right)
- Students are expected to read all course materials, explore hyperlinks, perform independent research and work outside of class on projects
- Students are expected to attend all classes, execute course activities and participate in individual and group critiques (10% towards final grade)
- Students are expected to complete seven projects (70% towards final grade)
- Final exam will include all work executed during the semester (20% towards final grade) (digital files to be turned in from each project for final grading)

Contact Information

Office hours are before/after class and by appointment.
email: morgan@studioix.com
Telephone: 410-961-1969

Microsite: <http://www.studioix.com/edu/mica/csgd306-illustrator1/>

Required Materials

- Paper & Writing Instruments (plain/graph paper)
- USB or Flash storage media
- Internet Access

Recommended Resources

Any texts or media on Adobe Illustrator, Creative Cloud, digital imaging, illustration, print, web & interaction design, psychology and art.

- Illustrator Help <http://helpx.adobe.com/content/help/en/illustrator/topics.html>

Suggested Resources

- Adobe Illustrator CS6/CC WOW! Book – Sharon Steuer
- Adobe Illustrator CC Classroom in a Book – Adobe Creative Team
- Adobe TV <http://tv.adobe.com>
- Layers Magazine <http://layersmagazine.com>
- Lynda.com <http://www.lynda.com>
- Tuts+ <http://design.tutsplus.com>

MICA Contact Information

Maryland Institute College of Art 410-669-9200
1300 West Mount Royal Ave, Baltimore, MD 21217
<http://www.mica.edu>

School for Prof. & Continuing Studies .. 410-225-2219

Technology Help Desk 410-225-2201

Security 410-225-2245

Emergency 911

General Information & Policies

Read more about MICA's policies on attendance, educational rights & privacy, grading, inclement weather, plagiarism, transcripts and more...

http://www.mica.edu/Programs_of_Study/School_for_Professional_and_Continuing_Studies/General_Information_and_Policies.html



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SCHEDULE

(subject to revision)

SEPTEMBER

17 **Introduction:** overview of syllabus, required materials, discuss Adobe® Creative Cloud™ and project and exam schedule. **Getting started with Adobe Illustrator:** setting preferences, creating & saving documents and workspaces. Working with shapes, fills & strokes and using the Selection and Direct Selection tools.

24 **Critique/Lecture:** defining **vector graphics** (resolution independent objects) and **raster images** (resolution dependent bitmaps). Drawing with the Pen tools. Creating complex shapes with the Shape Builder tool. Working with gradients, blends and transparency. Investigating layers, layer options, groups and nested layers. *Project due.*

OCTOBER

01 **Critique/Lecture/Presentation:** placing digital images: linking vs embedding. Techniques for converting bitmap imagery to vectors with Image Trace. *Managing Your Stuff* discussion about digital asset management, naming conventions for layers, directories & files, back-ups and archiving strategies. *Project due.*

08–15 **Critique/Lecture: typography** in Adobe Illustrator. Discuss fonts, character and paragraph options. Investigate Adobe's optical vs metric kerning. Explore Illustrator's keystone feature, *type on paths*. Working with fonts, live text on layers and creating outlines for final delivery. Working with the Appearance panel for unique type effects. *Project due.*

22–29 **Critique/Lecture:** discuss **corporate branding**, logo creation and collateral. Review vector graphics and raster images (benefits). Working with multiple layers, outlines, swatches, color libraries, color modes and file formats (AI, EPS & PDF). Working with multiple Artboards. Examine Document Setup, Document Color Mode (RGB & CMYK) and File Info menu items. **Adobe® InDesign®:** placing Illustrator art (Show Import Options & Object Layer Options). *Project due.*

NOVEMBER

05–12 **Critique/Lecture:** creating **graphs** in Adobe Illustrator to visually represent statistical data. Explore graph tools and options (type, data and design). Modifying graphs and design elements. Techniques for creating Xtreme graphs for infographics. Using Illustrator (and InDesign) to assist with basic mathematical equations. Techniques for measuring and placing objects. *Project due.*

19 **Critique/Lecture:** working with **Effects** (Illustrator & Photoshop). Understanding the **Appearance panel**. Techniques for applying multiple fills, strokes and effects to objects and type to create incredible imagery. Investigating similarities and differences (benefits) among the Adobe Creative Cloud applications. *Project due.*

26 **Thanksgiving Break:** enjoy the Holiday!

DECEMBER

03 **Critique/Lecture: Illustrator and the Web** – File > Save for Web... image preparation techniques for digital display (standard and high density pixel displays). Discuss JPG, GIF and PNG formats and best practices. **Adobe® Photoshop®:** opening, placing and pasting Illustrator files in Photoshop. Photoshop's Smart Objects and Smart Filters. Editing Smart Objects in Illustrator. Rasterizing Illustrator art when printing issues occur. *Project due.*

10 **Final Exam:** student presentations and digital file collection for final grading.

Mac Universal Keyboard Shortcuts

(Select) All	⌘ A
Close (Window)	⌘ W
Copy	⌘ C
Cut	⌘ X
Find	⌘ F
New (Finder Window)	⌘ N
Open	⌘ O
Paste	⌘ V
Print	⌘ P
Quit	⌘ Q
Save	⌘ S
Undo	⌘ Z

Microsoft® Windows® Users: Substitute Apple's Command key (⌘) with the Control key.

Save Your Work!

Saving your files frequently with the keyboard shortcut, ⌘ S as you work will ensure minimal problems in the event of operator mistakes, computer error or electrical failure.

The Keyboard Shuffle

If you're a right-handed mouse user, the usual left hand position is to rest your left thumb over the **Command key** (PC: Control key). Now you're set to press Command and another key to execute keyboard shortcuts and work efficiently! Press Command with your thumb and press N with your index finger to make a new file. While pressing the Command key, reach and press W with your index finger to close a window or press Z to undo your last operation. Your right hand can remain in control of your mouse (or preferred input device, i.e. trackpad or stylus) and you get an upper torso workout using both arms! If you need to use two hands to execute a keyboard shortcut, you might as well just use your preferred input device and the menus.

Tip: recruiters love to see their candidates for employment using shortcuts over menus – it's an impressive exhibition of mastery of the tools (and WOWs them every time)!

A few keyboard shortcuts should be executed with two hands because they are more leisurely in nature. **Command-P** (PC: Control-P) for printing is more of an *expectation shortcut* than *production shortcut*, so go ahead and use both hands to print your files!

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ILLUSTRATOR YOUR WAY

Setting Preferences

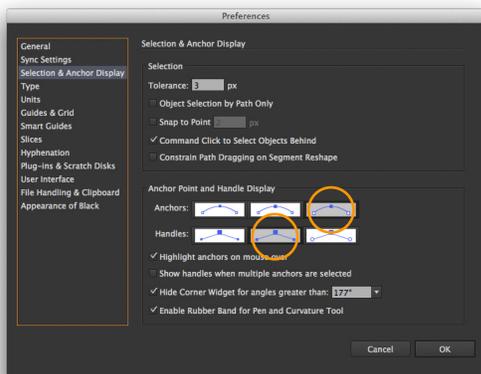
Adobe® Illustrator® ships with a default set of preferences which can be customized to your needs. User preferences can be set in Illustrator using the menu, **Illustrator > Preferences > General...** or **⌘K** (PC: Edit > Preferences > General...)

Sync Settings: saves your preferences in the Creative Cloud to share across multiple computers

Selection & Anchor Display: Anchor Point and Handle Display options

Anchors: the third option, large anchors is easier on the eyes!

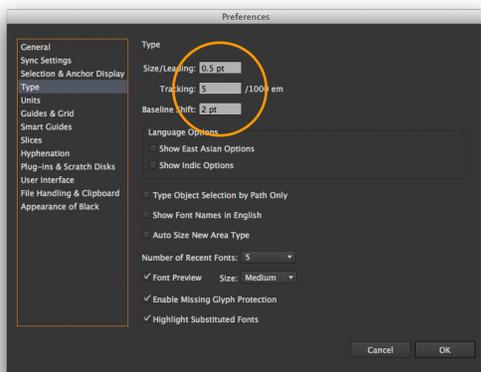
Handles: the second option, solid handles helps avoid confusion between anchors & handles



Type:

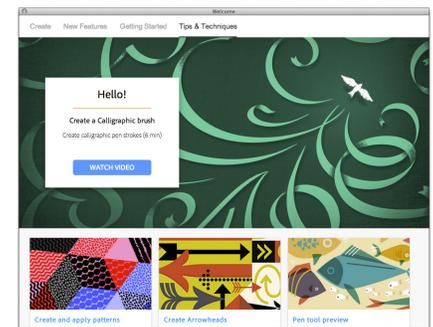
Size/Leading: enter **0.5 pt** for exceptional leading control

Tracking: enter **5 / 1000 em** for exceptional tracking control



Guides & Grids, Smart Guides and Slices: Use the menus or swatches to select colors that make you happy while working in Illustrator! Edit the prefs in your other Creative Cloud apps and use the same colors for consistency!

Adobe Illustrator CC 2015 Release: A New Way to Learn



Adobe Illustrator CC 2015 Release Welcome

You'll be greeted by the **Welcome** window after launching Adobe Illustrator CC 2015 Release for the first time and each time after that. This window automatically appears to assist you with creating new files, learning new features, getting started and tips & techniques. You can dismiss this window by clicking the close button at the top left in the title bar or selecting the **Don't Show Welcome Screen Again** checkbox at the bottom right. You can always view the welcome window again using the menu, **Help > Welcome...**

Color Settings

Adobe Illustrator ships with a default set of color settings which can be customized to your needs. Color settings can be set in Illustrator using the menu, **Edit > Color Settings...** or **⌘K**. Color settings can be synchronized across the Creative Cloud applications using **Adobe® Bridge®**: **Edit > Color Settings...** or **⌘K**.